

ews

FROM THE CANTERBURY SOCIETY OF ARTS

NUMBER THREE SEPTEMBER 1965



Sills Head

Hawley 64

THE NEW GALLERY SITE

Why 166 Gloucester Street was chosen

Nobody can say that the new gallery site at 166 Gloucester Street was agreed to in a hurry. In fact it was first agreed to by a previous Council prior to the second World War; but that's another story.

During this year, since the need for a final decision became important, about twenty sites have been considered, and very fully discussed by your Council. Many visits have been made to inspect particular sites, quite a lot of private enquiries have been made to ascertain from owners if they would consider selling to the Society and, most important, a lot of time and work was devoted to learning the Government's intentions regarding the future use of the Provincial Council Chambers and the possibility of a river bank site for an art gallery.

Most of the sites considered were in the area West of the Square bounded by Montreal and Chester Streets, but not all. The Council discussed fully the desirability of building in one of the inner suburbs, possibly with a garden setting.

For one reason or another and often for several reasons particular locations and sites were slowly eliminated until a "short list" of three sites remained from which the Council finally selected, unanimously, Gloucester Street, which certainly has a great many advantages.

First of all 166 Gloucester Street is close to the heart of Christchurch, the Square, and in a part of the city whose character is already determined as predominately cultural and institutional. The University is nearby and it is unlikely that the University will ever completely vacate the city.

Our land at 166 Gloucester Street is near the new hall and buildings of the Horticultural Society and Church House. Next door we have the Officers Club and, almost opposite will be erected, some day, a new air terminal building at which an increasing number of local and overseas air travellers will assemble. A block or so away is the new car parking building of Amuri Motors and opposite, on our Durham Street Gallery site the new Law Courts will be erected. It is already quite clear that street traffic will increase considerably on our new Gloucester Street frontage and this is important because our Society must always present to the public of Christchurch an image of activity and progress to our objectives of promoting the visual arts. Finally it must be mentioned that the Gloucester Street site, because of negotiations between the Society and Government just prior to the outbreak of the 1939-1945 war, was offered to us on very favourable, even generous terms which are within our ability to accept—a very important consideration at this time when we will be obliged to borrow to complete our building project.

The News Letter is posted bi-monthly to members
from THE GANTERBURY SOCIETY OF ARTS
Cnr. Durham & Armagh Streets
P.O. Box 772. Phone 42-261.
The Office will be happy to receive the names
of any prospective members.

Cover print by Pat Hanley, presented to the Permanent Collection by friends of the artist.

THE NEW GALLERY AND ITS COST

Will we need more money?

The important question for us is—have we sufficient money to build the gallery which our experience proves we need? Our architects, Messrs Minson & Henning-Hansen are now preparing preliminary plans and Council members are studying our needs so we can expect the answer to this question to emerge pretty soon. In the meantime members should know that after paying for the Gloucester Street land we will have about £35,000 and we expect to increase this to £55,000 by borrowing a further £20,000 on the security of the land and the gallery which we will erect. This sum, £55,000 is expected to be sufficient to erect a building of from 8,000 to 9,000 square feet but preliminary estimates are so apt to be astray that it is dangerous to be too optimistic until the plans are much nearer finality. The area of the Gloucester Street land is a little greater, about 10% more, than the area of our Durham Street Galleries, so it is clear that if we should have enough money to build two or more stories we can have a gallery with the necessary ancilliary rooms, much bigger than our present gallery. In any event it would appear wise to erect foundations now for a building to which additional stories can be added in years to come. Without doubt we must look forward—it is quite possible that 166 Gloucester Street will be our home for 50 or 60 years, just as Durham Street has been.

At this stage it does appear certain that we will need more money. Our building fund which was opened about two years ago already has in it nearly £3,000 and this is wonderful evidence of members interest, but we will have to furnish the new gallery, cover floors etc. and pay various professional fees which, in total, may well amount to something like £10,000. How wonderful it would be if the Society were to receive some really generous donations and donors would have the satisfaction of knowing that a really worthwhile civic project had been helped by them. Just what our new building needs is already pretty well known to members, and the Council if only because of the deficiencies and inadequacies of Durham Street. We need hanging space not less than we now have in Durham Street plus one or two small rooms which can be used for one-man shows or for hanging selections from our permanent collection. We must have proper office accommodation, catering facilities, cloakrooms, storage rooms and perhaps a members' room which can be used also for Council meetings and a library. Above all, however, we must have a modern gallery, properly lighted and really attractive—a credit to Christchurch. Let us hope that enough money will be available to complete it now rather than that we will be obliged to build in stages over a number of years because of insufficient funds. The Council would welcome an opportunity to discuss this matter with any person or group of persons who might be interested in completing what is really a city project. Our Art Gallery is essential to Christchurch, to supplement the excellent facilities of the McDougall Gallery but, by themselves, these are insufficient for our City.

OUR ADVERTISERS

We welcome several more. All are helping us in the most practical way possible. When making your purchases please remember them.

A. R. MACKAY LTD.

PHONE 40-129
LICENSED MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS.

AGENTS FOR—

David Brown Tractors
Howard Garden and Farm Rotary Hoes
Commer Trucks and Vans
Humber, Hillman, Sunbeam, Chrysler Valiant,
Chrysler, Plymouth.

Cnr. St. Asaph and Durham Street.

Messrs Maling & Company Limited

Wine Spirit and Tea Merchants

Cnr. Gloucester Street & Oxford Terrace

Phone — 62-779

ONLY *Masons*
"Sanitize" DRY CLEANING
for PERSONAL Freshness

BUSINESS STAFF AGENCY

SECRETARIAL SERVICES
VERBATIM REPORTING
PHOTO-COPYING
DUPLICATING

PEAK TIME

(Office) SERVICES LTD.

53 CATHEDRAL SQUARE (opp. G.P.O.)

TELEPHONES 64-910; 64-686

24-HOUR SERVICE 37-574

Also at

Wellington - Palmerston North - Auckland - Hamilton - Dunedin



For your
TRUSTEE and EXECUTOR
consider—

PYNE, GOULD, GUINNESS LTD.

Christchurch
Ashburton

Timaru
Blenheim

ROWNEY

ARTISTS' MATERIALS

Oil colour, water colour,
brushes, artists palettes, etc.,
and the new

Permanent Acrylic Colours

"cryla colour"

P.O. BOX 669

TELEPHONE 50-735

Sevicke Jones Opticians

51 CATHEDRAL SQUARE
(CORNER CHANCERY LANE)
CHRISTCHURCH

HORI C. COLLETT

F.S.M.C. F.B.O.A. (Hons.) LONDON.

SMITH & HODGSON LTD.

For Quality Pictures

Artistic Framing

153 HIGH STREET (opp. Drages)

PHONE 60-724



CASH ORDER PURCHASES LIMITED

A New Zealand owned Finance Company specialising
in Commercial and Domestic finance.

P.O. Box 1020
Telephone 69-363

134 Oxford Terrace,
CHRISTCHURCH.



CANTERBURY SAVINGS BANK

EARN INTEREST ON YOUR MONEY, UP TO 4% THROUGH SAVINGS,
THRIFT CLUB, HOME LAY-BY, BUDGET AND INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS.
ENJOY PERSONAL FRIENDLY SERVICE THROUGH THE 3 DIVISIONS—
CANTERBURY — MARLBOROUGH — NELSON

THE BANK FOR SAVINGS

Visit D.I.C Fine Art Dept.

Always Good Selection of Art
and Framed Pictures.

Helpful and Friendly Advice.

AIR NEW ZEALAND



ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE "GO GROUP" WITH **AIR NEW ZEALAND**
YOUR GROUP SHOULD SEE ABOUT AVAILABLE REBATES NOW.
MAKE A TRIP WITH **AIR NEW ZEALAND** THE HIGHLIGHT
OF THIS YEAR'S ACTIVITIES
SEE YOUR TRAVEL AGENT OR AIR NEW ZEALAND,
58-60 CATHEDRAL SQUARE. PHONE 42-809

BALLINS INDUSTRIES LTD.

Wine and Spirit Merchants
Aerated Water and Cordials



A taste is not enough.
Be wise, buy economy
family size soft drink.

9 Byron Street

Phone 62-099

BLACKWELL motors Ltd.

Durham, Kilmore and Chester Streets
Christchurch.

Licensed Motor Vehicle Dealers
Distributors for Chevrolet and Holden Cars
PHONE 62-999

THE STORE WHERE
YOU CAN BUY
EVERYTHING
YOU REQUIRE
UNDER ONE ROOF

The Farmers'
THE FAMILY STORE

VISITORS to CHRISTCHURCH
MAKE A POINT OF VISITING OUR

"CEDAR ROOM" FOR
• COLD LUNCHEONS
• GRILL BAR
• SMORGASBORD
OPEN MON. TO FRI. DURING BUSINESS HOURS

REDFERNS LTD. — ART SUPPLIERS

NOW HAVE NEW SUPPLIES OF—
LANDSCAPE and PORTRAIT PASTELS
LOOSE ARTISTS PASTELS
FRENCH WATERCOLOUR PAPER
CRYLA COLOUR
JAPANESE PAINTING KNIVES
MANNIKIN FIGURES
EMPTY OIL CARRYING CASES

60-468

90 MANCHESTER STREET
PHONE

60-468

CATALOGUING THE PERMANENT COLLECTION

Some attempt was made in the last "News" to survey briefly the historical significance of the Permanent Collection. Writing about some carefully selected facts, summarising 85 years of collecting and justifying the aims of our founder members is one thing, but to fully document this period is another. Through the years as each purchase was made notes were entered into sundry books or onto scraps of paper, but the cataloguing of the collection has always been a task few people would care to undertake.

Recently Mr John Oakley began to correlate information and Mr Maurice Askew produced a photographic record but still no card index system had been attempted. The Council finally settled on a plan to produce a fully catalogued system similar to those found in public libraries. From records compiled by Mr Oakley, Mr W. S. Baverstock (the Society's former Secretary) and older documents in the Society's archives an artists index has been compiled along with an index of the art works in the collection. Now members may simply find the artist they wish to study and from the card where all works are listed the index number of the particular painting or piece of sculpture can be found and the work traced in the storage racks. In another section each work is listed under the catalogue number. These cards contain a description of the work, when it was acquired and other details of reference. This section lists the works in decades and although records on the actual date of painting of some pictures has had to be guessed at, the approximate period will be found to be reliable. The Council welcomes members to use the new system and the cataloguing staff, Mr Frank Ware and Mr Quentin Macfarlane ask that any member of the Society who can supply additional reference material should send it in writing to the Society's office.

Members and friends considering presenting a new or older work to the Permanent Collection can now rest assured that it will be well cared for, catalogued and made available for all to view.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined the Society since the last News was published.

Mr Maurice Angelo	Mrs Veronice Jennings
Mr W. D. Bovey	Mrs R. M. Johnson
Mr David S. Cowie	Mrs P. M. McLellan
Mrs B. G. Dunkley	Mrs Susan M. W. Miller
Mrs A. M. Field	Mr Graeme D. Niven
Miss Sally Fountain	Mr Lászlo Rác
Miss Victoria Haselden	Mr Ian Treleaven
Miss Rachel P. Hamilton	

Please let your relatives see News.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD PICTURE?

I have been asked to write about what to look for in a picture but this is not easy. All art is creative and must not be confused with nature for art belongs to man alone. In painting a landscape the artist does not attempt to imitate his subject (a colour camera can do that much better) but rather he interprets it in the light of a lifetime of experience plus his emotional reactions to it. He may be impressed by solid forms and the relationship of planes as Cezanne was, or by light and colour like the Impressionists. Or he may be inspired by the tumultuousness of a landscape, like the great Expressionist painter Oscar Kokoschka.

Then in the actual execution of the painting he must create a beautiful design which will give added meaning to his subject and make it pleasing to the eye. An ill designed picture always gives the viewer a sense of uneasiness. Good colour is important, and even the way the paint is applied can give the work extra richness and meaning.

But above all the artist must have absolute integrity and this is a hard thing to achieve.

All these qualities are abstract and it is these abstract qualities which make a painting tick. The subject is meaningless without them.

A work of art is really a self portrait of the artist. It is conceived in his mind and therefore only great minds can produce great works of art. Plato believed this and so did the Greek poet Longinus who laid upon young men who would write great poetry the injunction to become great themselves: a masterpiece is an echo of a great soul.

John Oakley.

LOAN EXHIBITION

The undoubted success of the Loan Exhibition last month gives the Council and all who worked so hard a great deal of satisfaction. H. J. S. in the "Press" reported, "The present exhibition of painting, silver sculpture and ceramics organised by the Canterbury Society of Arts at its Durham Street gallery is a tour de force. The value of the work done by the Society, largely a voluntary organisation, is not sufficiently recognised in Christchurch but even the most complacent visitor will surely acknowledge the formidable problems posed by an exhibition of this kind. That Christchurch can respond most generously, even with infectious enthusiasm, to a series of well presented art exhibitions was proved by the success of the recent arts festival. But the work of art and artists must go on between festivals and for those who have not been able to pursue their interest more recently this present exhibition provides an ideal opportunity to do so."

Although we did not make a profit on the exhibition it was a most rewarding venture for the Society and its members, and the interest shown by the public proved it well worth the tremendous amount of work involved.

The Council wishes to thank all the members and friends who helped to organise the Loan Exhibition and also particularly those who helped to look after the displays, informing visitors of points of interest. Many thanks also to the many who loaned their pictures and objets d'art. We had so many offers of works of art that we could have had two exhibitions. The general success proved that a future exhibition of this kind would be well worth while.

Please let everybody see News.

news

SEPTEMBER, 1965.

GALLERY PROGRAMME

Penelope Kellock

A One-Man-Show of the paintings and drawings of Penelope Kellock will be in the gallery closing Sunday, 5th September.

Spring Exhibition

For Associate Working Members. Opening 8 p.m. Friday, 10th September until 24th September.

Combined One-man-shows

Opening Wednesday, 6th October at 8 p.m. until Sunday, 17th October.

Group Exhibition:

30th October to 14th November.

Italian Contemporary Sculpture Exhibition

will be showing in the gallery from the end of November and early December. Dates will be shown in the next News.

PERSONAL

We are pleased to report that our President, Mr S. E. Mair, who has not been well is steadily improving and we hope to have him back shortly.

We are also pleased that Mr John Oakley who has been in hospital is now out again and we look forward to his return to the Council table.

We have received advice that Miss Olivia Spencer-Bower will be back in Christchurch in November and look forward with interest to hearing news of her trip.

Use this sheet as a pin-up for easy reference.

NEWS FOR WORKING MEMBERS

Marlborough Annual Exhibition

22nd September to 24th September. Receiving day in Blenheim 24th September. Receiving day in this gallery for Canterbury members Monday, 20th September. 5/- per painting.

South Canterbury Annual Exhibition

Friday, 1st October to 16th October. Receiving day in Timaru 13th September. Receiving day in this gallery Wednesday, 8th September. 5/- per painting.

Invercargill Exhibition of Art

13th October to 7th November. Receiving day in Invercargill 30th September. Receiving day in this gallery Wednesday, 22nd September. 10/- per painting.

Nelson Suter Exhibition

14th October to 31st October. Receiving day in Nelson 8th October. Receiving day in this gallery Monday, 4th October. 10/- per painting.

Hays Art Competition 1966

Entries close 31st January, 1966. Works to be sent in before 18th February, 1966. Entry Fee £1 for each work submitted. Exhibition opens 8th March, 1966.

ROBERT McDOUGALL ART GALLERY

The Christchurch City Council will show in the Robert McDougall Art Gallery the

Contemporary German Painting Exhibition

from the 27th September to 14th October.

JUNIOR ART CLASSES

Term II has now finished and the third term will commence on Saturday, 11th September, at 10 a.m. Three groups will be organised for the next term, 7 years to 10 years, 11 years to 13 years and the seniors aged 14 years to 18 years. Although the classes are almost full there are a number of vacancies in the middle group particularly.

An EXHIBITION of the work of these pupils will be held in the Gallery for three days, 25th, 26th and 27th September. Members of the Society, friends and parents of the pupils are cordially invited to the opening which will be on SATURDAY AFTERNOON, 25th September, at 3 p.m. The exhibition will be open to the public on Sunday and Monday afternoons.

Please let your friends see News.

SOUTH ISLAND SECONDARY SCHOOLS' ART EXHIBITION

Fourteen years ago, the "Christchurch Star" and the Art and Crafts Branch of the Education Department took a bold step when they introduced the South Island Secondary Schools' Art Exhibition. Time has proved how wise they were.

The 1965 display in the Canterbury Society of Arts Durham Street Art Gallery has been the highlight of a long series of annual events. It proves two things: That it fulfills a need and that it is a definite encouragement to young students and their tutors.

This year, again, exhibits have been drawn from schools throughout Canterbury, Nelson, Blenheim, Otago and Southland. The 251 paintings, drawings and lino cuts were chosen from 1330 entries, selections being made by a panel of secondary school pupils and by another of competent adults.

To round out the exhibition, there has also been a small section devoted to young artists from primary schools and there was a fine art section.

This exhibition, which also goes on tour to Nelson, Motueka, Ashburton, Dunedin and Invercargill, is much more than an opportunity for young people to display their talents. It bears evidence of definite trends. The most colourful of all the fourteen displays so far, it bears much less obvious evidence of school influence than in earlier shows, and a great deal more spontaneity. At the same time, restraint is apparent, as much in the abstract as in the representational work, and, though children have not hesitated to use bright colours, the harmony is exceptionally good.

Expert opinion is that, not only has a consistently high standard been maintained, but that the work of older children has been notably strengthened. None of the entrants is older than 18—the youngest is about 12—and education authorities take satisfaction from the fact that the 17-year-olds in particular have excelled themselves, suggesting that art work in the upper forms is receiving the attention it deserves.

The art section of this year's exhibition is particularly imaginative. It is a pity that practical considerations rule out these exhibits visiting other centres, for they are remarkably attractive. Excellent results have been achieved with kiln-fired clay, even from very young children, and the continued experience in carving Oamaru stone gathers maturity. The range of materials is stimulating. Brass foil, copper wire, papier mache, cotton and even nikau fronds are utilised, and, in a range that extends from a giant stegathaurus to quite delicate small objects, this section displays a thrilling degree of adventurousness.

Whither bound? It is certain the Secondary Schools' Art Exhibition is here to stay. This South Island enterprise, which has been seen by Auckland audiences since its inauguration, has no parallel in the North Island. In fourteen years, thousands of youngsters have had their work exhibited, and the stimulus to continued experiment in adulthood is incalculable. Thereby, perhaps, lies the greatest value and significance of a notable achievement.

The Newsletter
is posted bi-monthly
to members by the
Cnr. Durham and Armagh Streets

H. FISHER & SON

Fine Art Dealers
For Better Class—
Pictures, Framing, Paintings
Expert Picture Restorers
691 COLOMBO STREET (near Square)
40-161 — PHONE — 40-161



FIVE STAR MOTORS LTD.

LICENSED MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS.

For your new and used guaranteed Volkswagens—

81 KILMORE ST., Tel. 42-069



71-879

Hay's

71-879

THE FRIENDLY STORE

Sole Christchurch retailers for . . .

KELVINATOR AND WHITEWAY

HERBERTS

OF CASHEL STREET

Famous for footwear in Canterbury

LIGHTBURN POWER TOOLS

Available from Leading Hardware Stores

Distributed by Mair & Company
(Importers) Ltd.

P.O. BOX 1477

— CHRISTCHURCH



McSKIMMING INDUSTRIES LTD.

322 TUAM STREET

MANUFACTURERS OF SANITARY
EARTHENWARE, FIREBRICKS & SUPPLIERS
OF ALL BRICKLAYING REQUIREMENTS.

DRIVE-IN YARD

PHONE 60-359

P.O. BOX 711