



C/- Auckland Museum,
Private Bag,
Auckland, New Zealand.

A.G.M.A.N.Z. NEWSLETTER NO. 19

September, 1964.

ART RESEARCH IN NEW ZEALAND

Summary of an address given by Mr. P.A. Tomory at the Annual Meeting at 3 p.m. on 8th April, 1964.

Research in New Zealand painting is important not only to the curator who is responsible for the accuracy of the records relating to his collection, but also to the general historian since it yields visual evidence of attitudes etc. The exhibition is a major contribution to research as it gathers up, in a coherent way, paintings associated with one artist or with a particular period. In this respect, the exhibition catalogue is the equivalent of a paper in some scientific journal.

Galleries are not doing enough to seek out New Zealand material and to produce exhibitions. A gallery can work over its own locality far better than any outsider can. Both active searching for material and the production of exhibitions are necessary, since material disappears, or is destroyed, and word-of-mouth sources die. Eventually the universities will have to take some interest in this work of filling in the gaps in our knowledge of New Zealand painting.

We must also be concerned with art other than New Zealand, e.g. European old master paintings, drawings and prints, and oriental art such as Japanese prints, since the holding of art of this kind is important to our culture, and may be of value to general research overseas. The art gallery is the major agent in art research - the field worker as it were - the important factor being the presence of at least one art historian on the staff.

THE 8TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

The Hawke's Bay and East Coast Art Society (Inc.), has invited the Association to hold the next Conference at the Art Gallery and Museum, Herschell Street, Napier, from Tuesday 23rd to Thursday 25th March, 1965. The following programme is tentative and further suggestions for the final programme will be most welcome :

Tuesday, 23rd March

- 9.00 a.m. Registration
- 10.00 a.m. Mayoral welcome and morning tea.
- 11.00 a.m. Tour of Museum and Art Gallery.
- 2.00 p.m. Symposium on Patronage of the Arts, (particularly in reference to art galleries and museums).
- 5.30 p.m. President's Sherry Party.
- 8.00 p.m. Aquarium and Planetarium.

Wednesday, 24th March

- 9.00 a.m. Annual General Meeting and Presidential Address. Reports on Golden Kiwi applications, Local Authority support, bursaries for trainees and the proposed summer school for curators. Discussion on the need for agricultural museums; a foray, by bus, to the A. & P. Showgrounds wherein lies the Waikoko Homestead and garden - a possible

site for an agricultural museum. Picnic lunch in the grounds, and return through Hastings, Taradale, Greenmeadows Game Farm and the Kiwis.

8.00 p.m. Reception by the President and Council of the Hawke's Bay and East Coast Art Society; music to be arranged by the Music Committee (but no community singing).

Thursday, 25th March

9.00 a.m. Reports of Galleries and Museums, perhaps with particular reference to the progress of building plans, development of collections and displays, new amenities such as sales counters and coffee lounges, recruitment of young staff etc.

10.30 a.m. Museum charges for photographic services (Mr. Tomory). Duty on Science Equipment (Canterbury Museum). Minimal records for small museums.

2.00 p.m. Museum clubs and hobby groups.
The Wanganui River Power Development Scheme.
Travelling Exhibitions for 1965-66.
Gulbenkian travel grants - circulated reports of Messrs. Ralph Riccalton and Gordon White. Further reports.
Films, radio and T.V., perhaps with particular reference to the question of who benefits?, i.e. the result of programmes; the protection of Museum material; and the possibility of objective reporting.

7.45 p.m. Final Plenary Session.

8.00 p.m. Public address - in conjunction with the Hawke's Bay Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

COUNCIL MEETING

A meeting of the Council of the Association will be held at Dominion Museum, Wellington, at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 8th December 1964, to consider the programme for the Biennial Conference and a report on our Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council applications. Will members with suggestions for the Conference programme, or other matters for Council, please forward them before 8th December.

THE FREE - FLOW AGREEMENT

At the 1960 Annual Meeting members asked Council to find out when the New Zealand Government proposed to ratify the 1950 Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials. Representations were made to the Comptroller of Customs, and later to the Minister. New Zealand ratified the Agreement to take effect from 1st July 1962, but Museums are not included in the schedule of institutions which are exempted from duty on science equipment (para 20.1 of Part II of the Tariff Regulations). At the request of Canterbury Museum, the omission was raised with the Comptroller of Customs, Wellington, who replied on 2-6-64, reference C.20.1 :-

"My Department is not prepared to approve Museums as a group for concessionary entry entitlement under Ref 20.1 of Part II of the Tariff. Consideration would be given however, to approving specific Museums upon application supported by details of each institution's aims and objects, sources of finance, etc."

Member institutions who wish to obtain concessionary entry entitlement may apply direct to the Comptroller or join in a joint application by the Association. There will be an opportunity for members to discuss the matter at the Biennial Conference.

ON DISPUTES, WRANGLES AND SQUABBLES

These comments are published with a view to their discussion at the Napier Conference in 1965 :-

At a meeting of the International Council of Museums held on 13-11-63, Sir Philip Hendy, Director of the National Gallery, London, and President of ICOM, informed the Bureau that he had been approached by two associations of museums in Argentina, informing him that a museum director, Mr. Romero Brest, had been obliged by his Ministry to exhibit the works of a certain artist, and that as a result of this, Mr. Brest had resigned. In answer to a request from these associations, Sir Philip, as President of ICOM, wrote a letter to the effect that no museum or art gallery director should be obliged to exhibit any works against his will. The Bureau heartily approved the action of the President in this matter.

The action taken was of little immediate assistance to Mr. Brest, but few applicants of standing in the profession would apply for the vacant post. In the long run pressure of this kind on an erring ministry or board will be effective, provided it is given publicity.

From time to time members of this Association are involved in controversies. "Modern art" is a frequent source of trouble although, in some instances, the work of art in dispute was "modern" some 20 or 30 years ago. Members will recall the uproar when the Auckland Art Gallery purchased Torso II. Disputes also arise when a board bravely defines a policy for collecting and refuses to accept extraneous material. For example, the Taranaki Museum has been subject to continuing criticism for refusing to accept a collection of shells.

The Association has a duty (see the Constitution and Rules) "to encourage helpful relations among art galleries and museums, their governing bodies and staffs, and all persons interested therein", and a further duty "to provide means for improving the status of curators and staffs". Any controversy which involves the status of members must be a matter of concern to the Association and, in some cases, the President and Council might deem it necessary to take action similar to that taken by Sir Philip Hendy and the ICOM Bureau, or might decide to refer the matter to ICOM with the request that it be given publicity. This statement must be qualified in (at least) the following respects:

Firstly, the handling of a dispute is primarily a matter for the members involved.

Secondly, the Association cannot intervene until it is invited to do so.

Thirdly, the Association cannot attempt to solve essentially internal issues. It is not a trade union, or a professional body which can command the standard of its members.

WILLIAM M. GARDNER, A.R.C.A., M.S.I.A., F.R.S.A.

Chequertree, Wittersham, Tenterden, Kent.

There is a possibility that Mr. Gardner will visit New Zealand in 1965, and he has enquired whether any societies would be interested in lectures or seminars on his field of work. He is an independent designer and craftsman and has executed commissions for the U.K. Government, regiments, House of Commons, etc. He has been an examiner in craft subjects for the Associated Examining Board of the City and Guilds of London, and is a member of the Royal Mint panel of Artists and Society of Scribes and Illuminators, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, etc.

Will any member interested in Mr. Gardner's visit please inform Mr. Gordon Tovey, Advisor on Arts and Crafts, Education Department, Wellington.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF MUSEUMS

The following two notices are circulated at the request of ICOM :-

(1) THE ICOM CONFERENCE 1965.

The 7th General Conference of ICOM will be held in the United States of America from the 16th September to the 4th October 1965.

As at previous Conferences, held every three years since 1947, hundreds of museumscurators coming from all over the world and representing every category of museum will meet to discuss problems common to the profession as a whole or to their own particular discipline.

Plans have been made for a study journey to Washington and Philadelphia, which will enable participants to make each other's acquaintance and to exchange opinions, whilst visiting the museums of these towns, museums which are important both through their collections and through the quality of their installations.

The General Conference itself will then take place in New York, in three phases:

- Four days have been reserved for the work of the specialised International Committees of ICOM. More than 20 different meetings will be held, covering all museum disciplines and all varieties of museum activities. Conference participants may attend these meetings, express their opinions, explain their problems, suggest solutions and exchange ideas with their colleagues.

- Lectures given by internationally reputed experts will open the discussions, which will deal chiefly with the training and status of museum personnel (museum scientific, museographic, preservation, education and administrative workers).

- Finally, the General Assembly will discuss and adopt ICOM's programme for the triennial period 1966-1968.

Although personal invitations to the Conference have only been sent to members of ICOM, any member of the profession may attend. Precise details can be obtained from one of three sources: The Chairman of your ICOM National Committee, Mr. P.A. Tomory; The American Organising Committee, (Mr. J.J. Rorimer, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 5th Avenue at 82nd St., New York 28, N.Y.; ICOM Secretariat, 6 rue Franklin, Paris 16^c, France.

(2) PRINCIPAL RECENT ACTIVITIES OF ICOM

ICOM activities fall into four categories; General Conferences, which are held regularly every three years; meetings of experts; participation in various large international undertakings or surveys; publications.

During the past few years, much has been achieved in all categories, with a noticeable increase throughout in ICOM's activities on behalf of countries in the process of rapid development. This latter has proved advantageous even to the older established museums, as it has mainly dealt with the rôle of museums in the education of the public, and with the preservation and study of the cultural property of separate nations.

1. General Conferences:

The 5th General Conference was held in Stockholm in 1959. The programme for the triennial period 1960-62 was drawn up by the various specialised international Committees, and adopted by the General Assembly. The International Committees also examined their own particular problems, and the theme for general discussions in plenary sessions was "Museums as Mirrors - Their Potentialities and Limitations".

The 6th General Conference took place at The Hague in 1962. The programme was similar to that of the previous Conference, but much more time was allowed for the meetings of International Committees. The themes discussed in plenary sessions were "Precautions against theft of works of art"; "General problems of conserving cultural

property, particularly in tropical and sub-tropical countries"; "The rôle of history and folklore museums in a changing world"; "Observations on the museum profession"; "The objectives of the museum: research centre or exhibition hall"; "The educational rôle of museums".

2. Meetings of experts.

Three large international meetings of experts have been organised with the help of Unesco:

- Museum Architecture, Turin, Genoa, Milan, 1961.
- The Problems of Museums in Countries Undergoing Rapid Change, Neuchâtel, 1962.
- The Educational and cultural Rôle of Museums, Paris, November 1964.

Several ICOM International Committee meetings have been held, through funds generously granted by various national committees:

- Committee for Museums of History and Archaeology, Poland 1960.
- Committee for Regional and Specialised Museums, Yugoslavia, 1960.
- Committee for Museums and Collections of Applied Art, London, 1963.
- Committee for Museums and Collections of Modern Art, Paris, 1963.
- Committee for Regional Museums, Brno, 1964.

The Committee for International Art Exhibitions has held a meeting every year, to give an ICOM classification to the more important exhibitions. The Joint Meeting of the ICOM Committee for Scientific Museum Laboratories and the ICOM Sub-Committee for the Care of Paintings has taken place every two years, in Copenhagen in 1959, in Barcelona in 1961 and in Leningrad in 1963.

Several meetings of working parties of experts specially chosen by ICOM have been held, including one in 1963 to study the steps to be taken to promote exchanges of cultural property between museums and one in 1964 to draw up a programme of action for ICOM in support of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign.

3. International undertakings and surveys.

As part of its co-operation programme with Unesco, ICOM has played an active part in:

- the Unesco Regional Seminars on the Rôle of Museums, organised in Rio de Janeiro (1958), Tokyo (1960), Mexico (1962), and Jos (1964).
- studies and surveys prior to several international conventions and recommendations, the most recent being the recommendations on the illicit importation, exportation and sale of cultural property and on exchanges of cultural property.
- the creation of an international film circuit for the distribution of cultural films in museums.

4. Publications.

A list of ICOM publications can be obtained from the ICOM Secretariat, 6 rue Franklin, Paris, 16^e, France. Mention will only be made here of the two most recent works of interest to museums in rapidly developing countries.

- Science Museums in Developing Countries, 1962.
- The problems of museums in countries undergoing rapid change, 1964.

Many important articles by ICOM experts have also been published in the Unesco periodical review "Museum".

PUBLICATION RECEIVED:

International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property. Synthetic Materials used in the conservation of cultural property. 67 pp. Rome 1963.

Techniques of preserving and restoring works of art change rapidly with the development of new synthetic materials. Dr. A. Van Schendel (Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam) and Messrs. R.L. Feller (Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh), G. Thomson (National Gallery, London) and A.E. Werner (British Museum, London) co-operated to prepare a report to the ICOM Committee of Museum Laboratories and the ICOM Commission for the Care of Paintings. The substance of the report has been published by the Rome Centre with the help of a grant from ICOM. There are chapters on thermoplastic varnishes, transparent sheets, adhesives, consolidants and miscellaneous materials. An index of trade names, an address list of producers and their agents, and a note on source literature complete a most useful report.

POSITION SOUGHT

Very keen young man, 19, seeks position with intention of career in museum or art gallery work. Wishes to further studies with view to sitting for British Museums Association Diploma in Decorative Arts. Four years secondary education and holds School Certificate (english, history, chemistry-biology-physics, metal-work-theory.) Can type, and has given lectures and displays. Will work at anything.

Telephone: 424, Te Aroha, or please write Roger McGirr, Te Aroha.

NEW ZEALAND MUSEUM STATISTICS

Member institutions and others who have furnished returns for the Unesco Statistical Questionnaire on Museums are thanked for their co-operation. The following is a summary of the results :

	<u>1951</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1963</u>
Number of Museums reporting:	25	31	44	43
Paying visitors:	26,242	43,654	61,471	152,806
Non-paying visitors:	<u>656,899</u>	<u>716,106</u>	<u>1,165,838</u>	<u>1,058,673</u>
Totals:	<u>683,141</u>	<u>759,760</u>	<u>1,227,309</u>	<u>1,211,479</u>
Full-time staff:				144
Part-time staff:				102
Totals:				<u>246</u>

TAXONOMY

Summary of a Report of a Committee appointed by the Council of the Royal Society 1963.

1. Preamble

The Taxonomy Committee was set up by the Council of the Royal Society in June 1960 ... "to consider the whole question of the need for taxonomists and provision of taxonomic training". The membership of the Committee was as follows: Mr. E.J.H. Corner (Chairman), the Treasurer of the Royal Society (Lord Fleck), the Biological Secretary of the Royal Society (Sir Lindor Brown), Dr. H.R. Fletcher, Professor H. Godwin, Professor W.O. James, Dr. T.C.S. Morrison-Scott, Professor C.F.A. Pantin, Professor O.W. Richards and Sir George Taylor ...

2. Scope and function of taxonomy

The scope of taxonomy is extremely wide, It centres on the classification of animals, plants and micro-organisms, and it extends to all relationships among them. In constructing a classification to meet the requirements of scientists, the taxonomist draws as far as possible on the information supplied by every branch of comparative biological investigation. It follows that the taxonomist should be as widely grounded in the natural sciences as possible.

There are well over a million living species and a vast number of fossil species. The correct identification of organisms is of fundamental importance in botany and zoology and in their applications such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry, horticulture, medicine, oceanography, pest-control, stratigraphy (especially in connection with the oil-industry and in mining) and veterinary science. These sciences are creating in their own progress fresh problems in taxonomy which require investigation, but for which taxonomic institutes do not generally have the staff to deal. The demands are now so numerous that there is an immediate and urgent need for a substantial increase in the number of taxonomists.

Collections of animals and plants have been made all over the world, and have led to great progress in taxonomy. Yet very great numbers, especially of lower organisms, await collection and description before the biological equilibria of natural habitats can be fully understood. With the increasing speed of economic development, aboriginal habitats with their plants and animals are being destroyed. Because of this, further study and collection must be encouraged. To identify species and to make the necessary revision of their classification requires many more taxonomists. Only a limited number of groups of organisms can be dealt with by the existing stream of taxonomists which is insufficient for the increasing demands.

In many parts of the world, where scientific education and research are beginning to be established, the absence of reliable modern books on the local fauna and flora greatly impedes progress. Without the taxonomic background, the biological significance of the region cannot be realised, and much practical effort may be wholly misapplied in such matters as pest-control or nature conservancy. The main recommendations of the Committee are as follows :

3. National Institutions

(Taxonomy in the United Kingdom is largely dependent on the great national institutions, namely the British Museum of Natural History and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew and Edinburgh.) The main needs to meet the increasing demands made on them are:

- i. Physical expansion to accommodate the collections, to establish modern laboratory methods of research and to provide facilities for visiting scientists.
- ii. Some increases in staff are required.
- iii. Adequate provision for expeditions overseas is needed.

4. Universities

- i. The basic training of taxonomists can best be provided by the universities where a breadth of training in other disciplines will be ensured.
- ii. Closer links between the universities and the national institutions should be encouraged, particularly with respect to postgraduate training.
- iii. The number of posts for taxonomists in British Universities should be increased.

5. Positions for taxonomists

... the general need for taxonomists both for scientific service in this country and in others, particularly in the tropics, is bound to increase. The key position of British taxonomic collections makes it particularly important that the United Kingdom should train taxonomists to meet this need... The Committee notes the importance of Resolution No.19 of the Official Resolutions of the Xth Pacific Science Congress, which calls for more help in the curating of botanical and zoological collections ... :-

"The effectiveness of research in all branches of botany and zoology depends upon rapid and accurate identification of plants and animals. Identification, in turn, depends upon sound taxonomic research, which is based on collections. Most collections are inadequately supported and lack adequate curatorial care."

6. The post-graduate training of taxonomists

... there are in general three kinds of student who take up a career in taxonomy. There are the few exceptional students who proceed on their own initiative to the degree of Ph.D. in their universities in the normal way. Their career may be continued in universities or in national institutions.

Other students may wish to enter directly a national institution by means of a junior post or by way of a fellowship offered for taxonomic research by the institution. In this case the question arises very acutely whether a Ph.D. degree in post-graduate research will be obtainable, or whether these students must forego this distinction until, after many years, they may reach the level of D.Sc. The Committee considered the problem of the external Ph.D. degree but felt that, apart from drawing attention to the fact that the inability to obtain a Ph.D. can be a deterrent from this avenue of recruitment, the matter lay beyond its terms of reference.

The third kind of student is the one to whom the very breadth of training recommended in section 4 presents great difficulties in the choice of a research subject at an early stage ... he is often in no position to select a major problem or to devise a mode of solution until he has acquired considerably greater experience ... than can be gained from the basic training of University courses ... The Committee recommends the establishment of a number of one-year "Wallace studentships" to encourage the acquisition of field and taxonomic experience before the student selects his problem for research ...

7. Assistance to overseas taxonomists

The unique position held by the United Kingdom in taxonomic science makes it especially important to assist scientists, particularly from under-developed countries, to visit this country. The attention of organizations dealing with assistance to scientists and students is drawn to this point.

8. Expeditions

Attention has been drawn in section 2 to the part played by expeditions in the progress of taxonomy, to the urgency of continuing the work of expeditions, and to the need for more taxonomic help in the elaboration of the results of expeditions. The Committee had

before it the outstanding example of the Royal Society in the promotion of expeditions. It should be recalled, also, that it was largely through the taxonomic problems arising from the Society's Expedition to Southern Chile (1958-9) that Council set up the present Committee... The Committee considers that taxonomic interests would be best served by recognising the following categories:

- a. Expeditions by specialists for their particular taxonomic work.
- b. Expeditions to collect generally where fauna and flora are little known or may soon perish.
- c. Expeditions primarily for training young biologists.

9. Libraries

A library is essential to scientific research but taxonomy, because of its wide scope and historical background needs a very large library...

10. Finance

...

GENERAL

During the 18th and 19th centuries taxonomy comprised a major sector of natural science and was the concern of some of the greatest scientists of the day. The manifold discoveries and developments of the 20th century have, however, overshadowed taxonomy which tends now to be neglected. The Committee has nevertheless ascertained that the subject is keenly alive but that it is handicapped in its endeavour to expand and to respond to the increasing demands made upon it by other and newer branches of biology.

Two new developments, one internal and one external, now emphasize the basic importance of taxonomy and the need for improving the means of pursuing it.

The former development is the revolution within taxonomy itself involving the synthesis of a wide range of experimental data and a thorough rethinking of its philosophy. The very advances in other branches of science are making new demands on taxonomy, whose significance in the universities is increasing.

The external development is the rapid advance of the tropical and other under-developed parts of the world. In these countries taxonomy is of major importance not only in universities, but also in a host of practical activities such as disease control, management of natural resources, the search of oil, etc....

MEMBERSHIP

Proposed for election at the next Council Meeting: -

Miss Jeanne H. Goulding, Auckland Institute and Museum,

The Cook Islands Library and Museum, P.O. Box 130, Rarotonga.

(The building for the new Cook Islands Library and Museum is finished. The Council of the Museum has appealed to the Association for member museums to give or lend ethnological specimens, and to recommend a suitable person to visit Rarotonga (at the Council's expense) to set up permanent displays. The appeal was circularised to the four metropolitan museums on 5.8.64, and Dr. R.S. Duff, Director of Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, has advised that he will undertake responsibility for gathering loan material.)

Robert Cooper
HON. SECRETARY.

The following letter is circulated for information of members. There will be an opportunity for members to discuss it at the Biennial Conference in March, 1965: -

NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL
Box 8003, Wellington C.1.,
New Zealand.

15 June, 1964

The Hon. Secretary,
Art Galleries and Museums Association of N.Z. (Inc.)
C/- Auckland Museum,
P.O. Box 9027,
AUCKLAND.

Dear Sir,

WANGANUI RIVER POWER DEVELOPMENT

The Nature Conservation Council has given consideration to the above scheme which involves the construction of a dam on the Wanganui River. The proposal to develop the river for hydro-electric power is still in the investigation stages and has not received official approval. The dam site under investigation is at Atene, some 22 miles from Wanganui. The height of the dam has not yet been settled but it is probable that the water at Atene will be raised by something over 400 feet.

The lake behind the dam will extend up the main river to about the Te Maire Bridge some miles downstream of Taumarunui. It will also extend up the Ohura River to the area of Ohura township and up the Tangarakau River to beyond the railway. The lower Retaruke River will be inundated as will be the river road to Pipiriki. (A plan which shows the 450 feet contour is held by the Hon. Secretary.)

The interest of the Nature Conservation Council in the scheme is the effect it may have on conservation values. Land of much Maori tradition will be under water and there could be archaeological and historic sites which may be destroyed. One of the recommendations of the Council is that in the planning of the scheme regard be paid to the preservation of archaeological and historic features. There may be Maori relics which should be protected or recovered. The New Zealand Archaeological Association has been asked to advise whether it is aware of any specific sites or features which it considers should be given protection. The Council would also appreciate your Association's views and any information it can supply.

Yours faithfully,

N.G. Krebs
SECRETARY