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OTAGO EARLY SETTLERS MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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1990 A WATERSHED YEAR

Elizabeth Hinds, Director

1990 is the year in which a decision must be made about the future location of the Museum.

Whether we are looking to the challenge of occupying the Dunedin Railway Station, one of New Zealand's most stately buildings or planning exciting new developments on the present site and adjacent land, the years ahead will be busy and fulfilling. The Association continues to pursue both options, seeking capital and a secure ongoing financial base, and support from Dunedin City, NZ Railways, NZ Historic Places Trust, NZ Lottery Board, Otago Early Settlers Association membership, and of course the public.

Meanwhile the work and achievements of the Museum continue. Much of the work of the staff is done behind the scenes, caring for the collection, preparing exhibitions and organising the events which promote the collections and their work. A demanding exhibition programme is in place for 1990, and a number of major exhibitions are planned. These will highlight the collections and present aspects of them to commemorate people and events of the past which are also meaningful today.

The Exhibition Gallery will feature three exhibitions in a series entitled 'Salute to Otago Artists', and at each opening a speaker will develop a theme related to the works on show. The Museum contains many treasures which have not yet been on public display, and 'Salute to Otago Artists' gives another opportunity to reveal hitherto little known works by Otago artists, as well to show again major works by widely. recognised artists such as George O'Brien.

This series will be followed by an exhibition entitled 'The Flower of Victorian Design', based on the decorative arts collection and will look at the flower motif as it was used by the Victorians in so many ways, from carved panelling to embroidery.



Two important Museum displays are planned as official 1990 projects. The first which will open on June 14, is about the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in the South and will focus on events at Otakou and Ruapuke in June 1840. This will remain in place as a permanent display next to the exhibit 'Otakou - Maori and Pakeha in the Otago Harbour before 1848'.

'People: 150 Years of Family Photography from Burton Brothers to Now' is the second official 1990 project, and will commemorate the work of Alfred & Walter Burton, Dunedin's most widely acclaimed and prodigious photographers. However the focus will be on their work as portrait photographers and the succeeding portrait studios in Dunedin, using some of the many portraits and family albums in the Museum collection. The exhibition will include home movies of the 1930s & 1940s, and other family photographs up to the present.

The Exhibition Gallery will also feature 'Dunedin Railway Station - from Swamp to Edwardian Ediface' based on a recently received collection of photographs taken through all phases of the building of the station. There will also be other contemporary photographs, plans and drawings.

Another major exhibition project scheduled to be complete by the end of the year is an exhibition about the Chinese in Otago initiated by the Chinese community in Dunedin, and based on the forthcoming book about the Chinese population in New Zealand 'Windows on a Chinese Past', by James Ng. This is an important development for the museum as it moves to fulfill its role as the museum of social history for all the people of Dunedin and Otago. A grant towards this exhibition, which will be a permanent one, has already been received from the 1990 Commission, and further funds will be sought.

This is a year which as yet sees the future location and premises of the collection undecided but the work of the museum progresses on many fronts.

PIONEER HALL

Michael Findlay, Curator.

After a lengthy period of chaotic happenings in the Pioneer Hall this section of the Museum's display area has started to take some shape and will continue to be developed over the course of the year. The challenge of 1990 as a time to look to our society's roots and this museum's commitment to examining our shared past requires us to keep the museum moving by bringing the past up to date. Displays in the Pioneer Hall will take two major forms. The first thread will be a chronological survey of the settlement of Otago beginning from the time of first contact between whalers and the Kai Tahu people of the Otakou peninsula. A major display looking at the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in the South Island takes up the story from the Otakou and whaling displays, and future displays will examine the background to the settlement of Dunedin and the implications of the Treaty. The display featuring the surveyor of the settlement, Charles Kettle, is a component of this theme. By adding to these displays over the coming year we will build a chronology of key events within the Otago region.

Parallel to this major theme are exhibits focusing on specific industries or facets of technology which had a strong social impact in the early years of the settlement. An architetectural display will follow the progress of building types in Dunedin from watttle and daub huts through to the modern movement of the 1950s. A beautifully prepared model of a cob two roomed cottage has recently been donated to the collection and will feature in this display.

To this point all display work in this new phase of development has been undertaken in-house. While this puts a strain on resources it is encouraging to know that the skills are present amongst the staff of the Museum to do justice to a demanding diplay programme. I offer my thanks to all staff and committee members who have worked towards the realisation of this project.

ARCHIVAL NEWS

Seán Brosnahan, Archivist

Admission Charge

During 1989 the number of visitors to the Archives and Research Department grew to just over 1700. In view of the amount of time being spent servicing these enquiries the Association Committee decided to impose a special admission charge for entry to the Research area. This was set at $10 for a day ticket. Members are exempt from this charge however and have free right of entry to both the Museum and the Research facilities.

Recent Acquisitions

We have recently received three very important additions to our collection of transcribed Marriage Registers. These are the registers for the Mosgiel Presbyterian Church (1886-1923), the North Taieri Presbyterian Church (1875-1919) and St John's Anglican Church Invercargill (1862-1920). All three are indexed according to Bride & Groom and Witnesses. The Mosgiel and North Taieri registers are also indexed according to the maiden name of the mother of each bride and groom, while the Invercargill register is indexed for places of marriage when this was not the church itself. The Mosgiel transcript includes in its index marriages in the church up to 1982 but only those to 1923 are included in the transcript, while the North Taieri index similarly extends to 1988 with only those marriages to 1919 appearing in the transcript. Our thanks to Mrs Ngaire Ockwell and Mrs Eleanor Leckie both for creating these transcripts and for providing the Museum with copies.

Readers of the "Dunedin Star Weekender" will be aware of the tremendous service provided by Mrs Shirley Hay and members of the Dunedin Group of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists through its genealogical enquiries column. Shirley recently provided the Museum with a fully indexed set of these columns from 1984 to 1989 and this is available for perusal in the Research area.

Perhaps the most significant addition to our resources in recent months is the Registrar General's Index to New Zealand Births, Deaths and Marriages for 1900 to 1920. This is an extension of the pre 1900 Index which we already hold. The extended index was purchased by the Dunedin Group of the NZSG from the proceeds of the very successful national genealogical conference held in Dunedin last May. Two additional microfiche readers were also bought so there should be no difficulty in gaining access to the microfiche material.

Single Women in Early Otago - What Happened between the Ship and the Altar?

Thousands of young women came to early Otago unaccompanied by their families and though many of them seem to have been "snapped up" by young men virtually on arrival, for most there was a time between the ship and the altar. It was an insatiable demand for domestic servants which prompted first the Provincial and then the Central Government to entice single women to the colony with cheap and even free passages. Some idea of the actual mechanics of their employment on arrival is given by a document held in our Archives.

This is an agreement between one Agnes Stuart (or Stewart) and Mrs James Fulton of Ravensbourne in September 1870: for a trial period of one month as cook and laundress at the rate of £40 per annum with her coach fare to be paid. Agnes Stuart appears on the passenger list of the "James Nichol Fleming" which arrived in Otago in October 1869. The agreement was arranged by Mrs Caroline Howard of the "Central Registry Office" who had arranged an identical contract for Mrs Fulton with a Jane Macleane the year before. Large numbers of our forbears must have entered into similar agreements though very few of these documents survive. The two held in our collection were preserved among the papers of the Fulton family donated by Dr Robert Valpy Fulton, one of the founders of the Otago Early Settlers Association.

SALUTE TO OTAGO ARTISTS

Angela Brenssell, Curator

The Museum holds major collections of the works of a number of Otago artists, including those of Christopher Aubrey and the Valpy family, as well as works by more widely known artists such as George O'Brien and John Turnbull Thomson.

Christopher Aubrey

The first exhibition will be watercolours by Christopher Aubrey, who lived and travelled in Otago from sometime in the 1860s until 1888. His paintings give us an unpretentious and unlaboured vision of both town and rural landscapes. Little is known of his background or training, although his paintings show considerable skill in draughtmanship. However his depictions of people, animals and houses are naive in character and these enliven otherwise formal scenes. All members are invited to the opening on Thursday March 8 at 8.00pm.

The Valpy Family

Judge William Valpy his wife Catherine and five of their eight children arrived in Dunedin on the 'Ajax' in 1849. Mrs Caroline Valpy and her four daughters all drew and painted, filling numerous notebooks and diaries with sketches and watercolours of their new surroundings. Training in the arts was an important part of their education and they were competent watercolourists.

Images of Early Dunedin

The third exhibition 'Images of Early Dunedin' shows scenes of the developing urban landscapes in Dunedin from the 1860s to early twentieth century. There is a selection of various works by a number of artists, some well known such as O'Brien, Thomson and others which are by lesser known artists. They include some naive and charming images of a familiar landscape which have not been shown before.

A catalogue is being produced and will provide an important source of information about the backgrounds of all the artists whose work will be shown.

EXHIBITION PROGRAMME 1990

9 March - 29 April	**Salute to Otago Artists** Red Gallery *Christopher Aubrey* Watercolours
10 April- 30 April	*Early Gardens in Dunedin* Museum Gallery An exhibition of garden history
4 May - 4 June	**Salute to Otago Artists** Red Gallery *The Valpy Family* Water colours, sketches & history of the family
14 June	*The Treaty of Waitangi in the South* Museum Gallery Signing of the Treaty in the South
8 June - 22 July	*Railway Station : from Swamp to Edwardian Ediface* Red Gallery Photographic exhibition depicting the construction of the Dunedin Railway Station
3 August	*People* Museum Gallery 150 years of family photography from the Burton Bros to now
27 July - 22 Oct	**Salute to Otago Artists** Red Gallery *Images of Early Dunedin* Oils, water colours, prints, drawings, including works by George O'Brien, John Turnbull Thomson & Peter Power
2 Nov - Feb 1991	*The Flower of Victorian Design* Red Gallery Paintings and objects featuring the floral motif

OTAGO SCOTTISH HERITAGE COUNCIL INC PRESENTING SCOTTISH WEEK 1990

PROGRAMME from Friday 16 March - Sunday 25 March 1990

INTRODUCING Lord Dunmore as Special Guest of the Week.

Friday 16: March with Pipe Bands from the Octagon to the Golden Centre for the Official Opening and Introduction of Lord Dunmore to the City of Dunedin

Saturday 17: Scottish Society Dance.

Sunday 18: 10.00 a.m. Bus Trip leaves Dunedin on an Historical Trip south to Somerville Park near Balclutha to meet members of the Robert Burns family and view Puerua Church where the Rev. Thomas Burns preachhed.

Monday 19: Burns Scottish Country Dance Club open night.

Tuesday 20: 7.30 p.m. Quiz Night at the Shoreline Hotel : make up a team!

Wednesday 21: Burns Club concert.

Thursday 22: Lecture by Elizabeth Hinds at Early Settlers Museum.

Friday 23: Grand Scottish Otago Anniversary Dinner in honour of our Special Guest, Lord Dunmore : Tartan Day.

Saturday 24: St. Andrew's Society Dance.

Sunday 25: At First Church an Otago Anniversary Service : wear your kilt. In the evening, Grand TATTOO AT CARISBROOK.

The AIR NZ Queen O' the Heather Contest will be held throughout the Week with appearances of the contestants at the Opening, the Saturday Dances, and the Burns Club concert. The competition is also supported by Revlon Ltd., and the girls' photographs will be by Mike Clark

Photography.
From Monday to Friday there will also be activities in the Golden Centre.
SCOTTISH WEEK 1990 IS ALSO SUPPORTED BY THE 1990 COMMISSION. INQUIRIES : Please phone 545051.

An OFFICIAL PROGRAMME with Full Details will be available later.

VOLUNTEERS

We are urgently in need of volunteers to add to our list for Saturday reception duties. The work involves the usual reception duties of dealing with the public, answering the telephone etc. and also the recording of monies received for admission and shop sales using an electronic cash register. A staff member is always present and will assist with an initial training period. Volunteers will then be able to handle these tasks competently.

The hours are 10.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. or 1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m., and your turn will come approximately once every eight weeks. If you (or any members of your family e.g. sixth and seventh formers looking for some unpaid work experience) are able to help, please ring the museum 775-052 and ask for Barbara.

CONGRATULATIONS

Sir John White writes that his aunt Mary Octavia Elliott (née White) celebrated her 100th birthday on 26 October, 1989 at "Hillview" Resthome, Te Kuiti. Mrs Elliot was a talented pianist completing her studies in Germany before the First World War. After returning to New Zealand she taught at Braemar House in Dunedin and later at Iona Girls College, Hawkes Bay.

ANNIVERSARY DAY. FRIDAY 23 MARCH

The Association will commemorate Anniversary Day 1990 with a guided walk up High Street, Dunedin.

The walk will leave the Museum at 10.30 a.m. crossing Queens Garden and continuing through the Exchange to the bottom of High Street. The High Street tour proper begins at the CML building and continues up the southern side as far as 'Moata', crosses over and returns down the northern side of the street and back to the museum.

Buildings of interest will include Armson's BNZ, J L Salmond's 'Moata', J F Hardy's 'Ballymena', Lawson's 'Threave' and Basil Hooper's 238 High Street plus many other interesting buildings and features. We look forward to seeing as many members and friends on the 23rd at 10.30 a.m.

SHOP NEWS

Books

CATLINS PIONEERING: A R Tyrell
A good local history with a fine collection of contemporary photographs. Written by a descendant of the Moffat family of Pounawea.
Price to members: $45.00
P & P 1.20

A SOUTHERN GENTRY: Stevan Eldred-Grigg
A social history of the landed gentry of the South Island, first published 1980, this is the new paperback edition.
Price to members: $26.95
P & P 1.20

OTAGO PENINSULA: Hardwicke Knight
A bound photocopy of his local history, 1979 edition
Price to members: $23.75
P & P 1.20

1990 - In tune with New Zealand's Sesquicentennial

NEW ZEALAND 1990:
The Official Souvenir Publication
Price to members: $13.45
P & P .80

1990 TEASPOONS
Incorporating the 1990 symbol - a must for all collectors
Price to members: $ 4.00
P & P .40

and the following books dealing with the Treaty of Waitangi

THE TREATY OF WAITANGI AND THE NGAI TAHU CLAIM: Ed. H Evison
Price to members: $ 6.25
P & P .80

WAITANGI - MAORI AND PAKEHA PERSPECTIVES
Ed. H Kawharu
Price to members: $28.95
P & P 1.20

THE TREATY OF WAITANGI: Claudia Orange
Price to members: $26.95
P & P 1.20

THE STORY OF A TREATY: Claudia Orange
Price to members: $14.35
P & P .80

New! New!

Hand drawn souvenir WRAPPING PAPER and GIFT CARDS showing items from the museum collections - black on white; green on white
Paper: 640 x 450mm Cards: 7 x 10mm folded

Special pack for members of six sheets of paper and twelve cards:
Price: $ 6.00
P & P .80
(If calling in please ask for 'Special Pack')