

Bulletin

THE ROBERT McDOUGALL ART GALLERY

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Fountain, (detail) Gordon Crook, tapestry 1986

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Christchurch City Council



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An Introduction to the world of Gordon Crook images, symbols dreams

21 July-3 September

This is a retrospective exhibition of works of the British born artist and designer Gordon Crook produced during his past 21 years in New Zealand. Living and working in Wellington he is recognised for the spectacular banners at the Michael Fowler Centre, Wellington and for his innovative work in tapestry, printmaking, ceramics, fabric, drawing and painting.

Born in 1921, and having studied at St Martin's School, and at the Central School in London, Gordon Crook lectured in design at the Royal College of Art and was a lecturer and acting Head of Department at the Central School prior to his arrival in New Zealand in 1972.

Here he has produced a rich and vast quantity of work in a wide range of media all reflecting his daring skill with materials and design. An innovator working outside

many of the boundaries between art, craft and design, he has created his own distinctive world of symbols, images and style using abstract and figurative elements from both the manufactured and natural worlds. As a tapestry maker of

THE CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL WISHES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IN THE RECENT BULLETIN ARTICLES "REMEMBERING TOM TAYLOR" AND "AN APOLOGY", CERTAIN INACCURACIES WITH REFERENCES TO MR JOHN HURRELL WERE PUBLISHED. THE ARTICLES WERE WRITTEN BY MR JOHN COLEY.

ANY INCONVENIENCE CAUSED TO MR HURRELL WITH REGARD TO THIS MATTER IS REGRETTED.

ROB DALY
GROUP MANAGER
METROPOLITAN SERVICES
CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

international calibre and an excellent printmaker Crook has achieved international recognition in England and the USA and has important commissions from Washington, Tonga, Samoa and Mexico.

This display of 58 works was selected by the curator Kate Derum a lecturer in tapestry at Monash University, Melbourne and consultant to the Victorian Tapestry Workshop. It includes samples of Gordon Crook's tapestries, drawings, photomontage and prints. Their themes arise from what the artist describes as an outward expression of his inner self; the moods, nuances and incidents of his own life. He addresses the current issues, delves back into his childhood, looks honestly at his relationships, his surroundings and at

his responses to these situations and events. As an artist Gordon Crook is also a splendid colourist. He produces amazing colour harmonies, strong dissonances and contrasts which play a crucial role in his designs. For special effects he sometimes uses up to 20 screens for his prints and on the tapestries twills two or three yarns together.

The *Wolf Man* series featured in both the tapestries and prints arose from his reading in 1990 of Freud's 'Wolf Man'. 'I did not deliberately embark upon a *Wolf Man* project,' he says. 'The story became the concept of my own dreams and drawings, stirring memories of the flames of desires forgotten. I began to put *Wolf Man* adventures beside my own and to such

remembrances and reverie another multi dimensional portrait started to emerge....' This became a major series occupying over 18 months.

In *An Introduction to the world of Gordon Crook images, symbols, dreams* we are offered intimate adventures into the artist's own psyche. Gordon Crook tends to ignore the social conventions that encourage people to be guarded about their feelings, dreams and ideas. Thus in this exhibition, toured by Exhibitour NZ with the support of the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council and Brooker's, we confront the work of an artist who chooses to break this convention and spurn the normal social reticence. He does it with astounding skill.

Treasures of the Underworld

25 July–10 September

This is an amazing collection of 48 works comprising 399 individual pieces in clay and glass that overwhelmed half a million visitors to the New Zealand Pavilion at the 1992 Expo in Seville. The excitement and interest they generated came as a surprise. Ian Fraser the Commissioner at the NZ Expo said "We were overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of the response.... We aimed to display our leading edge position in the field of ceramics to reinforce ... that the NZ Brand values are built on a concern for total quality, freshness, excitement and a special sort of energy. The experience has convinced me that one of the wheels on the vehicle of this country's export-led recovery could well be a potter's wheel."

In *Treasures of the Underworld* we will get the opportunity to make our own assessment. Fourteen leading artists Christine Boswijk, Barry Brickell, Len Castle, Paerau Corneal, Steve Fullmer, Brian Gartside, Julia van Helden, Christine Hellyer, Chester Nealie, Richard Parker, Darryl Robertson, Ann Robinson, Robyn Stewart and Ann Verdcourt were commissioned to make pieces around the theme of the Seville Expo which was celebrating the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's first voyage to America.

Voyage and discovery were their central theme and with it they explored their homeland and the familiar world of the South Pacific. Thus the rock pools, eels, nikau palms, thermal mud and volcanic rock all found their way into unique and exciting statements in clay or glass.

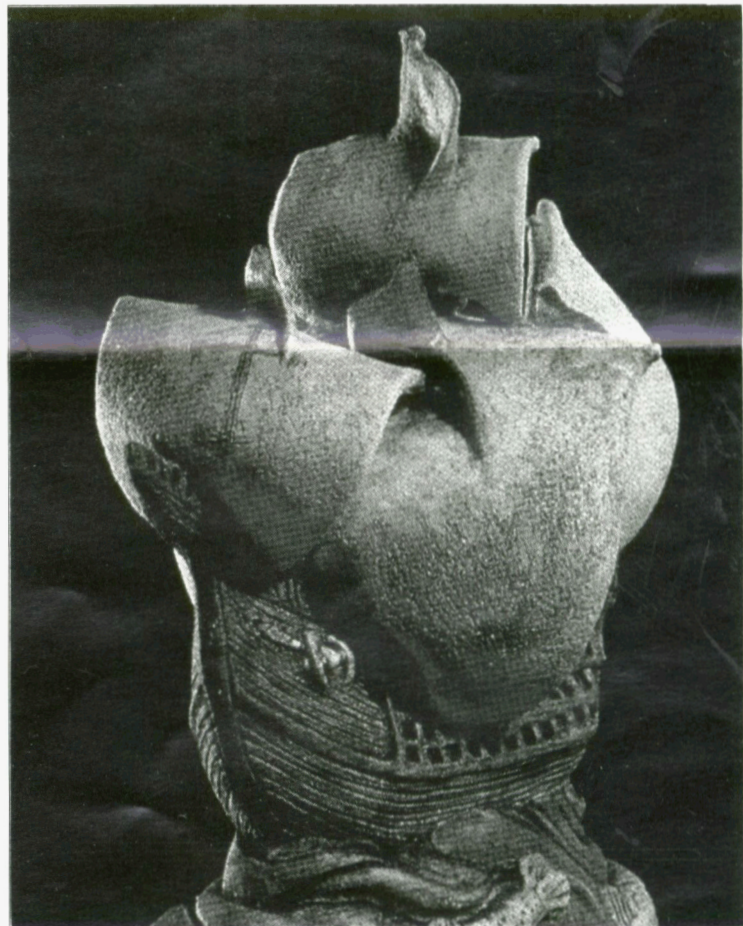
Ann Robinson made a giant 50 kg blue glass *Pacific bowl*. Barry Brickell produced a series of giant terracotta vessels paying homage to the lapita pottery made from sandy clay by the Melanesian voyagers who piloted their double-hulled canoes to the South Pacific more than 200 years

before Columbus. The Nelson potter Steve Fullmer made large black eels which swim suspended above a floor of fine sand.

James Mack, who conceived and coordinated the project, urged each commissioned artist to stretch the materials and techniques beyond the Eurocentric influences which can be seen over the past to have dominated other New Zealand art forms. That they succeeded in this you can see for yourself, and how well they expanded our normal concepts of ceramics and glass is displayed in this fascinating touring exhibition. When the tour ends

the 48 works will find a permanent home in the collection of the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.

Treasures of the Underworld is toured by Exhibitour on behalf of the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa with the support of the QEII Arts Council of New Zealand, and as Jenny Patrick, Chair of the QEII Arts Council says it is 'an exciting statement on the world stage of New Zealand's unique cultural identity and achievements'. It would be a pity to miss this one.



The Trials and tribulations of the first voyage, (detail) Ann Verdcourt ceramic 1992

Cranleigh Barton Drawing Award

7 July–6 August

The principal aim of the Cranleigh Barton Drawing Award is to recognise excellence in drawing, and to raise the status of this skill within visual arts education and practise.

The award takes its name from the Canterbury watercolourist Cranleigh Barton (1890–1975) who left a sum of money to fund a drawing award when he died. Barton was born in Feilding and educated at the Huntly district school, in Marton; Wellington College and Victoria University where he received three Turnbull Scholarships and graduated with a Bachelor of Law degree in 1912. His interest in art began early and in 1906, before beginning his university studies, he attended art classes as a pupil of Maud Kimbell (Sherwood) at Wellington Technical College.

During 1913 Barton travelled in Europe, returning to New Zealand just before the outbreak of World War I. Throughout this time Barton continued to be active as an artist and in 1919 he became a working member of the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts. In 1924, encouraged by the Australian artist Daryl Lindsay, Barton commenced studies at the Slade School in London where he was taught by Professor Henry Tonks and Wilson Steer. Barton successfully exhibited whilst in London and continued to do so in Christchurch on his return in 1930. Throughout the following decades he travelled overseas on painting excursions and exhibited regularly.

Upon his death Cranleigh Barton bequeathed a large proportion of his watercolours to the Canterbury Museum, which today has the largest holding of his work. His work can also be viewed in the collections of the Hocken Library, Dunedin and the Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington.



Spoerri's Table No 2, Michael Dell, charcoal, 1993

The Cranleigh Barton Drawing Award, held biannually, began in 1993 when it was won by Michael Dell with his work *Spoerri's Table*. The successful entrant this year will receive \$2000, awarded for a work judged to have the greatest merit, communicating through drawing an informed and original visual sensibility. There will also be two merit awards of drawing materials to the value of \$500 each. The winners of the awards will be announced at the opening of the exhibition of selected award entries held at the Art Annex on 6 July at 5.30pm.

Along with the legacy of Cranleigh Barton the award is jointly presented by the Canterbury Museum, The Robert McDougall Art Gallery and the executors of Cranleigh Barton's estate, the Guardian Trust with the support of The Drawing Room.

The award is open to amateur and professional artists over 18 years, with drawings completed in the last 12 months. Entries close on Friday, 6 June 1995.

An exhibition of the award finalists and winning drawings will be held at the Annex 7 July–6 August with a special opening function 5.30pm, 6 July.

Matisse Tour

10–13 August

The gallery is organising a tour group to travel to Melbourne 10–13 August to see the major exhibition of works by Henri Matisse touring only in Australia this year. The exhibition brings together 150 works including paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings, costumes and cut-outs and will be a unique opportunity to see a large group of works by this famous modern artist.

Our tour group will be led by Ann Betts the Education Officer and she has arranged a special pre-visit breakfast, seminar and special access to the exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria on 12 August. The tour group will also be offered two special pre-tour lectures in Christchurch on 27 July and 3 August. In these Ann will background Matisse's life, styles, techniques, the artistic scene in which he worked and special points about the works of the exhibition.

Some social or shopping time has also been arranged during the tour and Ann will be

available to escort interested members around architectural highlights and dealer galleries in the city. The four day tour costs \$945 which includes airfares, transfers, accommodation for three nights, the breakfast seminar and special entry to the exhibition, the two pre-visit lectures and the assistance of your escort.

For further information or to make a booking please contact Ann Betts at the Gallery 365 0915 or the travel agent Merivale House of Travel 355 2200.

Recent Acquisitions

The following works have been acquired for the collection.

Darryn George

Whakaoranga—Salvation, 1994
6 pieces mixed media on custom board

Stephen Bambury

Lines May Be Employed, 1991
Graphite resin on aluminium

Peter Robinson

Aitua, 1992
Anodised aluminium and ash

Grant Takle

Untitled, 1994
4 panels—Mixed Media

Stephen Gleeson

Sole Cast Away
Bronze (1st edition of 3)

Andrew Drummond

Support for a Limb
Bronze

Robert Jahnke

For King and Country, 1994
Mixed Media

Kathleen Browne

Portuguese Farmhouse, 1956
Oil on Canvas

Phillip Trusttum

Hit, 1993
Oil on Canvas

Shona Firman

Te Waka Taniwha
Cast Glass

Neil Frazer

Ruby Rose Black
Oil on Canvas

William Dittmer

The Alarm
Oil on Canvas

Peter Robinson

Untitled, 1993
Mixed Media on Canvas

Andrew Lukey

Untitled, 1994
from the series "Religious Icons"
Colour photograph 5/8

Ivy Fife

Railway Crossing, Canterbury
Oil on Canvas on Board

Russell Clark

Untitled (Jungle Patrol)
Watercolour

Euan Sarginson

Ngaio Marsh
Photograph—black and white
Doris Lusk
Photograph—black and white
Janice Gray
Photograph—black and white
Paula Ryan
Photograph—black and white

Helen Rockel

In Rivers and Torrents
Watercolour

The following works have been presented to the gallery by the artist.

Pat Unger

Painting III
Acrylic on Canvas

Chrystabel Aitken

Horse and Riders
Bronze
Miss Millicent Jennings
Oil on Board
Girl's Head
Oil on Board
Horses and Riders
Repousse

Presented by Hazel Cameron in memory of Colin F. Cameron

Ivy Fife

Murchison, 1942
Watercolour

Alfred H. Cook

Untitled (North Canterbury Landscapes)
Etching

Presented by Fiona and Bryony MacMillan

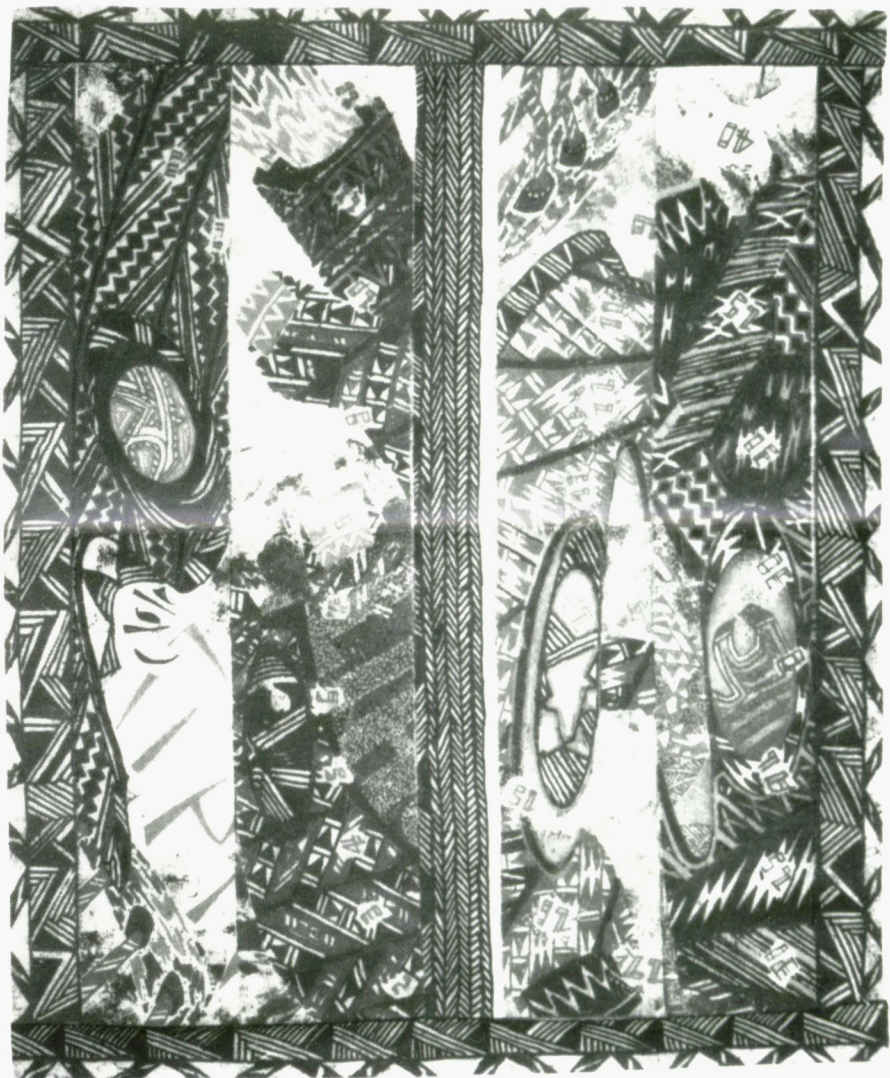
Rosa Spencer Bower

The Boscombe Woods, Springtime
Watercolour

Classical Studies and Art History Tour to Greece and Italy 1997

As many schools or interested adults are unable to form a tour group of their own, the McDougall is working with the Christchurch Girls' High School to assemble a tour group for a trip to the main art works and archaeological sites in Greece and Italy in May 1997. The tour is expected to last approximately 25 days with airfares, transfers, accommodation, breakfasts, local English speaking guides and most entrance fees.

Those interested in having their names listed for further information about this tour are asked to contact Ann Betts at the gallery.



Hit, Phillip Trusttum, oil on canvas 1993

Friends of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery

President—Chris Brocket 355 7133

Vice-President—Mark Stocker 365 3895

Treasurer—Helen Mary Black 322 7290

Secretary—Ann Watt 379 4055



Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends took place on 10 March. Besides those listed above, the new committee consists of Victoria Clark, Bill Cumming, Philippa Dobson, June Goldstein, Dick Lucas, Joan Moon, Kerry Sullivan, Robyn Ussher and Val Wisely.

The newly inaugurated Friends of the Robert McDougall/Farina Thompson Trust Scholarship for an outstanding student at Christchurch Polytechnic was presented to Michelle Dommett. The Friends' Scholarship for a University of Canterbury student went to Melissa Macleod, and Britt Romstad won the art history prize.

Guest speaker of the evening was the artist Nancy Tichbourne, who treated the audience to a splendidly stylish autobiography. The question of whether artists should be entitled to make money (rather than shiver in garrets) was dealt with deftly and wittily. Particularly vivid was Nancy's response to the nature she paints while in terms of technique she has it all. We had the opportunity not only to enjoy browsing through her many publications but also to admire several of her watercolour originals. Thank you, Nancy, and may your new garden blossom!

Speaker of the Month

These functions take place on the third Wednesday of each month, commencing at 10.30am with the serving of tea and coffee. The charge is \$1.50 for members, \$2.50 for non-members.

On 21 June, Dr Ian Lochhead, Senior Lecturer in Art History at the University of Canterbury, will give an illustrated lecture entitled 'In search of Benjamin Mountfort', the foremost Gothic Revival architect of the South Island.

On 19 July, Ros Burdon, Chair of the Christchurch Festival of Arts, will speak on 'Highlights of the forthcoming Christchurch Festival'.

Recent Speaker of the Month Programmes:

Peter Harper—March

The photographer Peter Harper gave the March lecture on 'An Illustrated Tour of Turkey and Greece'. The Tour was organised by Peter while working with the Department of Continuing Education, University of Canterbury, and took place last year. Peter's superb slides not only revealed his quality as a photographer but also his breadth of interests, which extended from art and archeology to geography and geology, focusing on the remoter island regions of Turkey off most



Scholarship winners 1995 from left Britt Romstad, Melissa Macleod, Michelle Dommett.



Nancy Tichbourne speaking at the Friends AGM in March.

tourists' maps. His commentary was both lively and informative and was much enjoyed by a large audience, who surely felt that Peter's presentation was the next best thing to going on the tour themselves.

Gerrit van der Lingen—April

Through his own Dutch background, his cultured mind and his excellent slides and video, Gerrit van der Lingen gave the April Speaker of the Month audience a splendid insight into the Kröller-Müller Museum which he visited last Northern summer. The video was shot while Gerrit rode his bicycle through the museum's famous sculpture park and was accompanied by an 'on the saddle' commentary. While the

park context occupied an important part of the lecture, Gerrit's tour took us inside the museum and reminded us of its superb contents which show how much the foundations of modern art owe to Dutch artists. Without a doubt, any future visitors to the Netherlands will want to hire Gerrit as their guide!

LocArt Visit in August

Margaret Hudson-Ware, the painter, will show her studio to Friends on Tuesday 22 August at 11 Leinster Road. A maximum of 15 can be accommodated. Please meet June Goldstein at 10.20am outside the artist's studio. To book (or cancel), please ring the answerphone on 379 4055.

LocArt Visit to Lady Isaac

'Sydney Thompson would have been delighted,' remarked one of the party at the LocArt visit to the remarkable collection of Lady Isaac, a patron of the Friends. The reference was to Thompson's painting of *The Staircase on the Waimakariri*, which had first attracted Lady Isaac to an interest in art. After Sir Norman's death in 1987 Lady Isaac took more of an active interest and had soon collected so many works that she could not display them adequately, even in her spacious house. The solution was to build a wonderful long gallery in the attic.

She is fond of landscapes, and so typical works by Austen Deans, Aston Greathead, Douglas Badcock, Peter McIntyre and William Sutton are featured, besides several Thompsons. Other works to catch the eye were Graham Sydney's boats, Grant Banbury's rendering of the Provincial Government Buildings, European townscapes by Margaret Stoddart, Elizabeth Kelly and Tom Esplin, and nudes by Doris Lusk, Jan Chaffey and Sam Mahon. Portraits of Sir Norman and Lady Isaac, including a recent one of her by Toss Woollaston, were also displayed.

Afterwards our hostess led us round the property to see projects of the Isaac Wildlife Trust and the ways in which quarrying operations have been transformed into vistas of water, grass and trees. A memorable experience for the 30 lucky Friends who registered early; commiserations to the 30 who missed out—but the visit will be repeated in November and will be advertised in these columns.

New Members

Dr and Mrs S. R. A. Ayling
Prudence and Nicholas Bettle
Lorelei Burdett
Peter and Barbara Bush
John and Fay Coley—Life Membership
David Columbus
Elizabeth Ellery
V. A. Elsom
Elizabeth Garret
Dorothy Heyler
Mrs Lyn Holland—Life Membership
Charlotte Johnstone
Alison King
YiYi Ku
Yvonne Loader
Eve Moore
Ms J. Palmer
Angela Parks
Helen Smith
Sally Jane Smith
Mrs J. H. Van der Borch
Mrs Susanne Webster
Mrs Margaret White
Sylvia Williamson



Friends at recent LocArt visit Karen Scannell, Anna Wilson, Barbara Stevens with Lady Isaac.

Coming Events

June

- 1 **By the Waters of Babylon. The Art of Lois White. Until 3 July**
Kiwiana. Until 9 July
Christine Webster. Black Carnival. Until 2 July
Five South Island Artists. Until 9 July
- 2 Friday Club—10.30 am. An art appreciation club meeting.
- 3 Saturday I Club—10.30am. An art appreciation club meeting.
- 6 Concert—Hagley Singers—10.15am. All welcome
- 7 Wednesday I Club—10.30am. An art appreciation club meeting.
Wednesday II Club—1.30pm. An art appreciation club meeting. New members welcome, phone 365 0915 to enrol.
- 10 Saturday II Club—10.30am. An art appreciation club meeting.
- 11 **Lecture. 11.00am Women on Canvas**—discussed by Linda James, artist, and Julie King and Pamela Gerrish Nunn, from the Art History Department, University of Canterbury
LocArt—2.20pm. Visit to the studio of Grant Takle, Bookings on answerphone 379 4055.
- 15 Kilmarnock Club—10.30am
- 21 **Friends Speaker of the Month** 10.30am—Dr Ian Lochhead, Art History Department, University of Canterbury on 'In Search of Benjamin Mountfort'.

July

- 1 **By the Waters of Babylon. The Art of Lois White. Until 3 July.**

Kiwiana. Until 9 July

- Saturday I Club—10.30am. An art appreciation club meeting.
- 3 **Kidsfest—Kiwiana A Child's Vision** 10.30am—12 noon. Practical art sessions for children aged 7–12 years. Bookings essential \$4.50. *Until 8 July*
- 5 Wednesday I Club—10.30am. An art appreciation club meeting
Wednesday II Club—1.30pm. An art appreciation club. New members welcome. Phone 365 0915 to enrol.
- 6 **Opening Cranleigh Barton Drawing Award**—5.30pm. At the Annex. *Until 6 August.*
- 7 Friday Club—10.30am. An art appreciation club meeting.
- 8 Saturday II Club—10.30am. An art appreciation club meeting.
- 19 **Friends Speaker of the Month**—10.30am. Ros Burdon, Chair Christchurch Festival of the Arts will speak on 'Highlights of the forthcoming Christchurch Arts Festival'.
- 20 Kilmarnock Club—10.30am. 10th Birthday celebrations.
- 21 **An Introduction to the world of Gordon Crook images, symbols, dreams.** *Until 3 September*
- 23 **Concert—Orpheus** 17–18th century vocal duets by Purcell and others. 3.00pm
- 24 **Treasures of the Underworld** Opening 5.30pm—*exhibition closes 10 September*
- 27 **Matisse Tour Group**—Pre-tour lecture, 7.30pm, Cloisters Theatre, Arts Centre. Bookings essential 365 0915