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## NEWSLETTER OF THE LEICESTER MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION

Number 313

December 1983/January 1984

### CHRISTMAS CLOSURE 1983

Because of the normal Friday closure, all Leicester Museums will this year be closed for Christmas from:-

Thursday 22 December (5.30pm)  
to

Tuesday 27 December (10am)

(The Record Office will re-open at 9.15am on Wednesday 28 December)

### EXHIBITIONS

December 3rd to December 22nd. Crafts for Christmas - recent work by members of Leicestershire Guild of Craftsmen. With this and the wide range of stock in the Museum Shop all of your Christmas present problems can be solved under one roof. Gallery 1a.

December 3rd to January 3rd. Victorian Paintings Workshop. A chance to see some of the larger pictures from the reserve collections - a selection will be on view over the Christmas period with explanatory notes on their background and condition. Gallery 11.

January 14th to February 27th. R.D. Russell and Marian Pepler. Furniture and textile designs by Professor Russell and his wife; a touring exhibition from the Geffrye Museum, London. Gallery 11.

### LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

Thursdays 12.45pm to 1.45pm. Soup, coffee and tea served in the Council Room from 12 noon. Admission £1. 20p.

December 8th Anna Markland Piano  
BBC Young Musician of the Year 1982-3.

January 19th Faber Trio Harp, Flute, Viola.

February 9th Penelope Lynex Cello  
Geoffrey Pratley Piano

### EVENING CONCERTS

Tuesdays Admission £2.50p.

1983 December 20th Hilliard Ensemble  
7.30pm

1984 January 24th Leicester Chamber Orchestra  
8 pm.

### LUNCHTIME LECTURES

Free Series - Thursdays 12.45pm - 1.45pm. Tea and coffee served in the Council Room from 12 noon.

January 26th Leicestershire Artists - Robin Paisey,  
Keeper of Fine Art.

February 2nd } Leaflet giving details of these lectures will be  
16th } available at Museum Shop in January.

All lectures will begin in Gallery 6 (Victorian and Edwardian Paintings) on the ground floor.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

Thursday  
December 1st  
7.30pm  
Launde - Portrait of a Parish  
An illustrated talk by Ian Evans, Assistant Director,  
Natural Sciences, Leicestershire Museums.

Thursday  
January 5th  
7.30pm  
"Down to Earth"  
An introduction to the major soil science exhibition under  
preparation, given by Chris Scotter of the Museum Education  
Section, in preparation for the exhibition which will be  
officially opened by David Bellamy

Thursday  
February 2nd  
7.30pm  
Mud on your Boots  
Memoirs of a fieldwalker by Pete Liddle, Archaeological  
Survey Officer.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held in the  
Council Room on Wednesday, January 18th at 7.30pm.

LMA GIFT TO LEICESTER MUSEUM

As preparations were being made for the Divali exhibition at Leicester Museum  
a search was made to borrow exhibits of shadow puppets. None were available,  
then came news of the approaching sale of shadow puppets from South India.

The Executive Committee of the Leicester Museums Association had already  
indicated their wish to make a gift to Leicester Museum this year, and so  
were approached by Pam Inder, Keeper of Decorative Arts and Julia Nicholson,  
Assistant Keeper, Indian Arts and Crafts, and asked if the purchase of these  
puppets was possible,

Interest in the sale was also shown by the Victoria and Albert Museum. The  
purchase was made, the collection to be divided between the two museums -  
Leicester, and the Victoria and Albert.

This is a very unusual collection made of dyed leather to  $\frac{3}{4}$  life size. These  
puppets are no longer made in South India.

The collection represents the major characters from South Indian folk tales.  
Visitors to the Divali exhibition at the New Walk Museum had an opportunity  
to see two of the puppets depicting characters from the Ramayana at the  
entrance to the exhibition.

It seems that very few specimens of this type are found in other museum or  
puppet collections. Therefore as well as being exciting display material  
they will also be useful for research purposes. As it is planned to focus  
on "performing arts" as part of the collection policy for Indian material  
these puppets will be a good starting point.

M.McH.

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer hearty congratulations to Annette Carruthers on her appointment as  
Keeper of Museums, Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum.

As Assistant Keeper of Decorative Arts, Leicester Museum, Annette took an  
enthusiastic and practical interest in the life of the Leicester Museums  
Association.

We remember her organisation of our visit last July to the Stuart Crystal  
Glass Factory at Wordsley and the Broadfield House Glass Museum at Kingswin-  
ford following up her winter time lecture "British Glass and Glass Makers".  
In August 1982 she led us on the "Ginson Trail".

M.McH.