

CHF

CANTERBURY
HISTORY
FOUNDATION

Newsletter
April 2009

Thanks for Donation — Art Orders

One of our life members, a proprietor of NZ Fine Prints, has kindly arranged to give donations to the Foundation in acknowledgement of sales made directly through our website. Our website gives anyone access to the huge range of art prints that are available from the firm. You may consult the catalogue, view the images, and arrange purchases on our site: www.chf.org.nz

For this useful and supportive arrangement the Foundation's thanks go to Antony Ellis. Try the website and click on "contacts" to inspect hundreds of art prints. The NZ Fine Prints system recognises orders coming through the Foundation website.

The CHF's opera concert

At the time this letter was ready for mailing the sale of tickets for the concert on April 26 was going very slowly. Another flier is enclosed in case members know of friends or others who would appreciate this event. The fund-raising aspect of the concert is important to one of our main activities, the annual Community Historian scheme. An early response is requested. Bookings are important at this stage.

Dame Ngaio Marsh at Home

Several of our Foundation members are also supporters of the Ngaio Marsh House and Heritage Trust. Colin McLachlan is the Trust Board's chairman. Like Eve Harding, he is one of the guides for the increasing number of visitors to the house in Sherwood Lane, off Valley Road, Cashmere.

The house, rich in mementoes and evidence of Dame Ngaio's careers as artist, novelist, and theatre director, is cared for as an important part of Canterbury's history of literature and the arts. Visitors are welcome to tour the house and garden by appointment. Group tours can be arranged. The cost is \$10 a person and appointments to enjoy this local and national treasure can be made by telephoning (03) 337 9248.

AGM and Jim Gardner Lecture

The Foundation's annual meeting will be on Thursday, June 25, at 5.30 pm. A full notice with agenda and accounts will be sent to members early in June.

This year's Jim Gardner Lecture, by Professor Peter Hempenstall, will be at 2.30 pm on Sunday, July 26.

President, Alan Hayward

Secretary, Binney Lock Phone (03) 351 6579 Fax (03) 351 6576 PO Box 29 070, Christchurch 8540
The registered office of the Foundation is the 3rd level office, School of History, University of Canterbury
website: www.chf.org.nz

Support for Publication

The Foundation made a \$200 grant to help with the final expenses of producing *Fire Sugar, Fire Pudding*, the account of the late Pat Clark-Hall's experience in a Royal Navy motor torpedo boat in the last 18 months of World War 2. A Foundation member, Tim de Castro, who has worked on Royal New Zealand Navy histories, encouraged the publication of this book.

Colin Amodeo finished the writing and editing of this family-inspired production based on Clark-Hall's own notes, letters and journal. The book was launched this month and usefully noticed in a feature article in *The Press* on April 4. The book is distributed by Nationwide Book Distributors, PO Box 65, Oxford, and may be had from bookshops at RRP \$45.

Pat Clark-Hall, born in Scotland in 1920, died in 2006. His family moved to New Zealand in 1934. He completed and published the autobiography of his father, Air Marshall Sir Robert Clark-Hall in 1995.

Promoting Business History

The Foundation's executive has set up a sub-group to work on ways to encourage the preservation and production of business history, and to embrace businesses' support for the Foundation. Simon Dorset has agreed to be the convenor of the group. The executive also hopes that appropriate provision will be made in the Foundation's rules to accommodate such supporters.

Historic Places Trust

The enclosed enrolment form for the New Zealand Historic Places Trust may be used by any member or offered to anyone who might wish to join the Trust. New Trust memberships, attributed to the History Foundation's efforts, will earn us a small commission. The Trust's journal, visiting privileges, free admission to heritage properties, and merchandise discounts, as well as giving support for the cause make membership well worth while.

Family History Society Anniversary

The Family History Society of New Zealand, which originated 40 years ago as the Armorial and Genealogical Institute, will celebrate its anniversary in Christchurch on Saturday May 9 at Knox Church Hall in Bealey Avenue. The organisers hope that all current and past members of the society will attend. The guest speaker will be a prominent genealogist, Jan Gow. For information, phone Jill Lord, (03) 352 4506.