

PRETTY AS A PICTURE

THE UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO ARTWORKS CATALOGUE

A catalogue of artworks was prepared in 1990 by Property Services at the University of Otago, under the supervision of the Staff Architect. The catalogue was based upon an earlier and less complete register assembled in 1987 by Professor John Borrie and Peter Borlase.

The project was funded through the University's maintenance budget, with an initial application for Government subsidy in connection with New Zealand's sesquicentennial celebrations.

In 1998 the register was reviewed and recompiled as an Access database, with digital images of each work, also under the supervision of the Staff Architect. This project was funded from Government 'Task Force Green' Special Employment Funding in addition to University maintenance budgets.

The University was fortunate to attract the services of Tim Vial, who was particularly well qualified to take on the task, taking in total nine months to categorise, photograph, and enter each work onto the database. He was also instrumental in setting up the database, with advice from Rosemary Entwistle at the Hocken Library.

A Kodak DC120 digital camera was used, with images recorded in medium resolution to provide compact jpeg files.

The catalogue records the University's artworks and collectible and memorial objects, as a series of collections:

The Embellishment Collection – serving the purpose of enriching the University's buildings and campus, and providing records of individuals and events. This is the largest collection, and is located throughout the University.

The Staff Club Collection – which originated as a collection of works purchased by and on behalf of Staff Club members, for display in the Staff Club building. This collection was transferred to University management in 1997.

The Frances Hodgkins Fellowship Trust Collection – a collection consisting of a work by each artist that has held the Fellowship.

Other collections include those of the *Otago University Students Association*, the *Anatomy Museum*, and various *University Departments* and *Halls of Residence*.

The catalogue currently contains the details and images of about 650 items, not including the *Hocken Library pictorial and photographic collections*, which are separately catalogued and managed by the Hocken Library.

The database records are amended as new works are acquired or the circumstances of existing works change.

At intervals of about 5 years, the catalogue hard copies are updated and reprinted, and issued as record copies to Property Services and the Hocken and Central Libraries.

University of Otago Property Services
October 2001