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78 DERNGATE NEWS

NEW HOUSE ADMINISTRATOR

The Trustees are very pleased to have appointed Rebecca Coughlan as the new House Administrator. Rebecca has been in post since January and immediately previously to that was employed by Northamptonshire Newspapers as a Newspaper Sales and Marketing Manager that included the Chronicle and Echo and Evening Telegraph. Rebecca has taken this opportunity to introduce herself to the Friends.

‘ As a former Northampton High School pupil, I enjoyed my A level history lessons sitting in the window seat in the dining room of 78 Derngate. My school pals and I would traipse in from the back garden (then connecting the Main School, Towerfield and 78), through the kitchen and up the stairs to the dining room.

At the time I loved the house and had a vague appreciation of it's heritage. I have always been interested in the arts in general and the visual arts in particular so this early association sparked off a life-long interest in Mackintosh, the Arts and Crafts movement and more besides. I studied A level Art and History before failing to complete a degree in Philosophy in London! I later began a 10-year career in book publishing – always on the sales and marketing side, followed by a year in New York. Returning to the UK in '96, I decided to move back to Northampton to be close to my family and enjoy the greater level of space that is affordable in the county. I began my 7-year association with the Chronicle and Echo and Evening Telegraph.

I am now both truly honoured and delighted to be given the opportunity to work with the 78 Derngate Trust and the Friends of 78 Derngate to continue the ongoing project to maintain and develop this site of national importance. I very much look forward to meeting the Friends and volunteers in due course.



*Volunteers' New Years meeting.
County Club, Northampton*

FROM ART NOUVEAU TO BAUHAUS

Lecturer: Sabine Schaebitz

**March 1st. 7.30pm. Tickets £2.
The Guildhall, Northampton.**

Pre-book 01604 711317 or on the 'door'.

Sabine studied architecture at, what is now, the Bauhaus University, Weimar. She is currently a Senior Lecturer in architectural history at the University of Birmingham, School of Architecture. Her illustrated lecture will consider the significance of the role of the Arts and Crafts and Art Nouveau movements which in turn led to the founding of the Bauhaus and the emergence of modern architecture of the 1920's.

82 RESTORATION AND NEW BUILD



The Trust are very pleased to be able to announce that the contact for the restoration and new build of number 82 has been offered to Marriott of Rushden, with John McAslan & Partners as architects. It is anticipated that building work will have begun this January.

Lee Mason

Last February I escaped the English winter with a trip to Australia and New Zealand. Many people have enjoyed tours of New Zealand since 'Lord of the Rings' publicised the glorious landscape. There is indeed spectacular scenery to be seen, including the geysers and glaciers, fjords and coasts, as well as excellent museums and attractive towns.

A bit off the beaten track is a jewel on the East Coast of the North Island. Napier lies on Hawke's Bay, the famous wine-producing area. I was lucky enough to visit it in time to enjoy the 2005 Art Deco Festival.

On February 3rd 1931 a major earthquake devastated the city and the fires that followed destroyed most of the buildings. A forward-looking city council controlled the subsequent re-construction so that much of the city dates from the 1930's. It is unique in that almost the whole city consists of wonderful Art Deco buildings, often compete streets of shops and offices designed by local architects. Each year a Festival commemorates the earthquake and the rebirth of the city. The inhabitants dress in suitable gear, the streets are full of 1930's vehicles and jazz and barbershop quartets serenade the public.

It is very difficult to pick out specific buildings from so many (over 800) but Classical and Egyptian influences abound, as well as the Spanish Mission style and that of Frank Lloyd Wright, with some Maori embellishments.

The most famous building is the 'Daily Telegraph' building (E.A. Williams 1932), exhibiting many Art Deco elements such as zigzags, fountain shapes, ziggurats and sunburst.

The Old Amp building (Louis Hay 1934) was influenced by both Louis Sullivan's Art Nouveau style as well as by Frank Lloyd Wright.

Hawke's Bay Chambers and Colenso House, originally a hotel, (both E. A. Williams 1932) are typical, the latter being in the Spanish Mission style.

The Municipal Theatre is an interesting later example (J.T. Watson 1938) and shows an Egyptian influence together with aspects of the Streamline Moderne style with original neon tubular lights and two superb 'leaping nude' wall panels.

Of particular interest is Harstons Building (E.A. Williams 1932) which incorporates C.R. M. motifs in the glass shop front.

Finally the Soundshell (J. T. Watson 1935) is still used for outdoor entertainment, such as jazz concerts and bathing belles!

February 2006 is the 75th anniversary of the earthquake and there will be a special celebration. If you get a chance visit! You won't be disappointed.

For more information contact: the Art Deco Trust, P.O. Box 133, Napier N.Z/ www.artdeconapier.com



Daily Telegraph. E.A. Williams. '32



Old Amp. Louis Hay '34



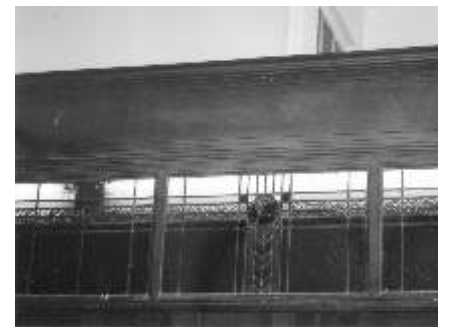
Hawke's Bay Chambers. E. A. Williams. '32



Spanish Mission style Colenso House '32.



The Sound Shell: bathing belles.



Harston's CRM inspired glass front. '32

: THE JEANIE DEANS :

In our December newsletter we reprinted 'A Dream Come True' a story that Bassett-Lowke had written as an advertising feature in 1926. Jean Summerley has sent us an extract from another story about a Bassett-Lowke working model, The Jeanie Deans, this time a coasting steamer. The full story appears in The Little Grey Men by B. B. (Who we believe, from Chris Sherlock's research, to be Binden-Blood).

This time it is a birthday rather than a Christmas present:

On the breakfast table was a heap of parcels and letters, all for Robin. A scribbling diary from the maids, complete with pencil, which fitted neatly into the back, a fountain pen from Jarvis, the butler, chocolates, books, a Spitfire from Uncle Ernest (but it couldn't fly), a big box of peppermint creams, and then...this long heavy parcel from Daddy and Mummy.

It was wrapped up in brown paper and tied securely with string and it had a Bassett-Lowke label. Good omen! He saved this parcel until last, then with trembling fingers, undid the string.

Two layers of paper, one thick and one thin, and then a big white cardboard box.

Off came the lid...Tissue paper carefully wrapped round something heavy, long and hard. What could it be? When

Robin unwrapped the heavy thing he was quite dazed for a minute with delight.

It was an exquisite model of a coasting steamer, the Jeanie Deans, smelling of spick and span enamel! It had a proper hold, full of little hooped wooden barrels and sacks, two derricks which really worked with chains and hooks, lifeboats slung on working davits, heavy iron anchors which were just like the real ones, a funnel, black and red, portholes, and coils of rope neatly stacked on pine decking, a cosy cabin with a companion way, little pictures on the walls and a proper fo'castle, with a door which opened and shut. It even had a wireless aerial. Was there ever such a thing made as this wonderful ship? You wound it up by a key inside the funnel. This was not as it should be, of course, but you couldn't have everything, and anyway you would never have noticed it, so cleverly was the mechanism concealed, and there was a spare winding key which was kept in the fo'castle. Robin gazed at the wondrous ship in a trance.

The 'story' above is wonderful evocative stuff. What we have not been able to establish is when the *Jeanie Deans* was made (or if, in fact, it was made at all). The mention of the Spitfire in the 'story' is a good indication to period. If you have any information, or even a picture, please let the Editor know.

: 'AMSTERDAM SCHOOL' ARCHITECTURE :

Paul Warren-Roberts

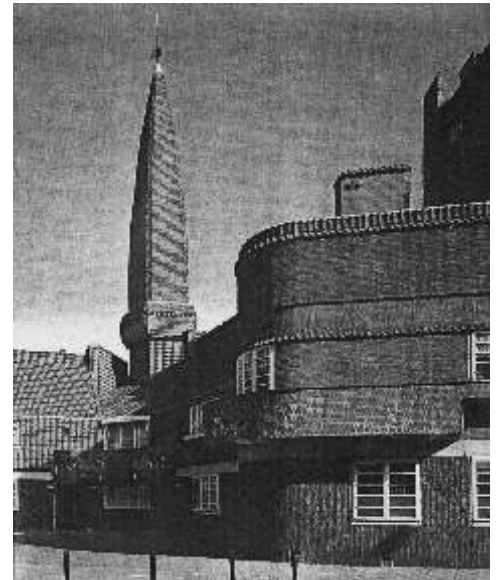
Most visitors to Amsterdam are oblivious of the vast amount of commercial and more importantly urban, domestic 20th Century architecture of outstanding beauty all over the capital. Visitors enjoy the historical city, cobbled streets, central canals, the museums and shopping, but are unaware that only a short distance away a wealth of 'architectural treasures' are awaiting their inspection and enjoyment.

In the centre you may have noticed fine displays of the 'new movement' designs on various bridges, in brick and stone design and wished to see more. And a great deal more is available to see. Built in brick, stone and concrete known as the 'Amsterdam School', a treat for anyone interested in early 20th Century design and innovative planning. All over the city, vast areas of all types of domestic buildings from a single detached dwelling to a whole estate on a grand scale.

Under the Amsterdam Housing Act, controlled urban quality housing was built in a richness and ambiguity of form all over the outer city, great blocks of social housing, comprising a singular vision, imaginative and honest in form, respectful of the rules of good design, the synthesis of technical expertise and artisan skill. Under the Act commenced a large building project, the results we see today.

Houses, identical apartments blocks and shops to small beautifully laid out hamlet villages planned for small community living with central gardens, to sweeping vista's of matching dwellings on each side of tree lined streets, all in intricate brick designs complimented by stone relief and matching windows. Streamline modern designs, angular windows and identical doors, simple, elegant and exquisite stained glass and doors, of natural wood finish or painted. View a central shopping precinct with identical doors and shop windows still in keeping today, built to service and compliment the design of a specific housing estate and school, with newly built tramlines to provide the occupants with easy access to the city centre.

All this can be seen by walking just a short distance in any direction from the main canals, a haven of modernity in urban housing to explore.



: CRM EDINBURGH :

"C.R.M. In France" Exhibition. Dean Gallery The Landscape Watercolours. Jim Bassett



A pre Christmas visit to Edinburgh gave Marion and I an opportunity to see this wonderful exhibition of over forty watercolours all together. As well as a delight to the eye it was both informative and intriguing showing paintings of Dorset (rarely reproduced), letters to Margaret (complete with misspellings) and those beautiful sketchbooks in which CRM demonstrates his confident mastery of line. In this carefully presented show with plenty of information on the walls, it was easy to see his preoccupation with linear pattern appearing in the sky and

backgrounds of his early workaday architectural elevation drawings, later to be given full rein in the rich patterns worked into the sea/reflections, rippling waves, rooftops and distant fields of the Mediterranean paintings. Always the designer, there are several examples of his moving bits of the landscape into more aesthetically appropriate positions to aid his composition. I overheard a lady complaining that she expected there to be "more sunshine and terracotta roofs" as she looked at a rich landscape where CRM had softened a village to pastel purples and browns to make it grow out of a rocky crag.

Our Whyne Bassett-Lowke got more than a mention with several drafts of packaging and publicity designs including the "sailing ships off Dover" used for the Christmas card!

Highlights for me were a vertical sketchbook drawing of a stem of wild flowers fitting perfectly across two pages, drawn with a single sensitive line, and a harbour painting made up of several views that have been overlain and interlocked. There is a perfect townscape in the top right hand corner, below it a geometric composition of boats, sheds, zigzag steps and arcing waves. You can have great fun dividing it up into different self-contained pictures. Well we did! And we were glad to be able to catch this rare show that goes on until the 5th February. After that it goes on tour in Europe.

: FRIENDS NEWS IN BRIEF :

Since the AGM Evelyn Lander has been co-opted onto the Friends committee for 2005/6.

You will see from the calendar that the limited number of places for the Port Vendres trip have been taken. The numbers were made up from those who registered their interest at the AGM or who telephoned Rob Kendall since the December newsletter.

Underscan have a video interactive installation on Northampton Market Square from 3-12 February by Lozano-Hemmer. The NAC will open the Fish Market during that time. The Friends will have display at the 50:50 café on Monday 6 from 5-9pm.

Whyne & Toshie: 1914-28. As you can see from the calendar there is to be another performance of the one act docu-drama, written by Rob Kendall, about the working relationship between Bassett-Lowke and Mackintosh, and their wives, which was first performed for the Heritage Weekend last September. A number of Friends and volunteers were unable to see the first showing and we have therefore arranged a second presentation in the form of a costumed rehearsed reading. Seats are unreserved but can be pre-booked by phoning (01604) 711317. There will be a small charge to cover costs. The performance is on Wed. 5 April, 7.45pm. The Playhouse Theatre, Clare Street, Northampton.



: CALENDAR : OF EVENTS 2006

Friends stand with NAC.
Fish Market. N'pton.
Mon Feb 6. 5-9pm.

Art Nouveau to Bauhaus.
Lecturer: Sabine Schaebitz.
March 1st. 7.30pm.
Tickets £2.
The Guildhall. Northampton.
Pre-book 01604 711317.

Cecil Higgins Gallery.
March.

Membership renewal.
1 April.

Whyne & Toshie: 1914-28.
Playhouse Theatre,
Clare St. N'pton..
Wed 5 April. 7.45pm.
Details (01604) 711317

78 re-opens.
12 April.

Port Vendres.
May 9-14 (full)

Cheltenham Museum
May

Brighton Museum
June.

7 Hammersmith Terrace
tba.

Glasgow
Sept/Oct (3 days)

AGM
Thurs.23 Nov.

NEWSLETTER COPY

Should you wish to contribute to the newsletter articles and/or photographs re 78 please contact:

Rob Kendall
on **01604 711317.**

You may also like to check the Trust web site

www.78derngate.org.uk