



A History of  
The  
Nottingham Society  
of Artists

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— BY —

PATRICIA J. WOODS



## INTRODUCTION

IN August of last year I realised that in the coming 1954/55 season the Nottingham Society of Artists would be seventy-five years old. A visiting lecturer, Mr. H. J. Denham, S.G.A., S.M.A., had said he hoped the records of such an active society were being kept, and this gave me the idea of writing an account of the lectures and outings during the 1953-54 season.

Whilst recording the events of the present, I felt I would like to find out about the Society's activities during the past seventy-five years. I mentioned this idea to Mr. H. R. Wibberley, who gave me every encouragement, kindly lending me catalogues and annual reports. Together we discussed the method of presenting this history of the Nottingham Society of Artists and, on Mr. Wibberley's suggestion, I have written a yearly account of the meetings, exhibitions and outings of the Society. I am most grateful to him for his help and friendly advice.

My especial thanks are due to Mr. A. Parker, N.R.D., who so generously lent me the minute books of the *Nottingham Atelier* and *Nottingham Society of Artists* in his possession. I should like to thank him, too, for lending me his neatly kept folders containing all the notices of meetings and the correspondence whilst he was Secretary. Amongst them was *The Short History of the Nottingham Society of Artists*, written by George Hodgson. It is a most interesting and intimate record of the first twenty-five years of the Society's activities, and has been of invaluable help. I am also indebted to Mr. Parker for reading my notes and for much helpful advice.

Miss Alice Kiddier allowed me to see her father's copy of the 1907 catalogue of the Local Artists' show, in which Mr. George Hodgson's history of the Society was printed. Later this history of the Nottingham Society of Artists was published in book form and Miss Elsie Dixon kindly lent me her copy. In it appeared a list of the number of members, associated and subscribers, each year, and I have tried to do the same in the following fifty years.

I spent a most enjoyable morning talking to Mr. Arthur



Spooner, R.B.A., in his studio. He told me about the founding of the *Nottingham Atelier* and of its amalgamation with the Nottingham Society of Artists, after which classes were held in Thurland Street. Mr. Spooner showed me the style of work they did in those days and he spoke of his war work during the First World War when he spent his time on a farm at Clifton and used every spare minute to paint his beloved horses.

Mr. C. A. Richards has given me much helpful information about past members and about his memories of the days at Thurland Street. My thanks are also due to Mr. Stacey Blake for his help.

I should like the members of the Council to know how much I appreciated their kindness in allowing me to delve into the black box in the Studio, where I found several Minute Books and the annual General Reports since 1880. Mr. L. Theodore Else allowed me to borrow the present Minute Book.

For advice on where to find other information, my thanks are also due to Mr. C. F. Pitman, M.A., and I am particularly grateful to Miss P. M. Anthony for her most generous offer to type my notes in her spare time.

PATRICIA J. WOODS.

Beeston, Notts.



## NOTTINGHAM SOCIETY OF ARTISTS

Year	Member	Associate	Student	Subscribers	Hon. members	President
1880	30	—	—	3	—	Samuel Bourne, 1880-1912
1881	30	—	—	3	—	
1882	28	—	—	2	—	
1883	28	—	—	2	—	
1884	32	—	—	4	—	
1885	36	—	—	5	—	
1886	35	—	—	6	—	
1887	34	—	—	8	—	
1888	29	—	—	6	—	
1889	36	—	—	5	—	
1890	35	—	—	6	—	Samuel Bourne, J.P.
1891	32	—	—	5	—	
1892	31	—	—	5	—	
1893	27	—	—	6	—	
1894	30	—	—	7	—	
1895	27	—	—	13	—	
1896	27	—	—	12	—	
1897	32	—	—	10	—	
1898	29	—	—	8	—	
1899	26	—	—	8	—	William Kiddier — <i>Atelier</i>
1900	30	—	—	6	—	
1901	27	5	—	6	3	
1902	26	6	—	6	3	
1903	38	12	—	22	11	
1904	48	16	—	41	11	
1905	46	16	—	35	11	
1906	46	25	—	46	11	
1907	39	26	—	52	11	
1908	39	26	—	52	11	
1909	38	26	—	50	11	Arnesby Brown, R.A., 1912-30
1910	38	26	—	42	11	
1911	38	27	—	30	11	
1912	38	27	—	30	11	
1913	37	27	6	30	10	
1914						
1915	38	28				



Year	Member	Asso- ciate Student	Sub- scribers	Hon. members	President
1916					
1917					
1918					
1919	35	24			
1920					
1921					
1922					Arnesby Brown, R.A.
1923	32	35			
1924	30	34			
1925	34	28			
1926	33	29	39	114	12
1927	40	24	—	114	12
1928	39	26	39	131	12
1929	44	17	29	119	12
1930	40	15	29	118	12
					Terrick Williams, A.R.A., 1930-36
1931	39	21	25	116	12
1932	38	22	25	116	12
1933	38	20	29	116	11
1934	38	18	29	116	11
1935	38	16	29	116	11
1936	43	9			11
1937	36	9			11
1938	36	9			11
1939	35	10			9
1940	35	10			6
1941	35	10			6
1942	35	10			6
1943	35	10			6
1944	35	10			6
1945	37	15			6
1946	40	15	148	26	6
1947	40	15	148	26	6
1948	40	15	148	26	6
1949	40	15	148	26	6
1950	40	15	148	26	6
1951	40	15	150	26	6
1952	40	15	150	26	6
1953	40	16	148	26	6
1954	39	18	148	26	6
1955	39	18	150	24	6
					Arthur Spooner, R.B.A., 1946-

Year	Vice-Presidents	Hon. Secretaries
1880	James Turpin Hart	Samuel Oscroft
1881	"	"
1882	"	"
1883	"	"
1884	"	"
1885	"	"
1886	"	"
1887	"	"
1888	"	"
1889	"	"
1890	"	"
1891	"	"
1892	"	George Hodgson
1893	"	William Kiddier
1894	"	Herbert Baker
1895	"	"
1896	"	"
1897	"	"
1898	"	"
1899	"	Charles Knight
1900	"	"
1901	"	"
1902	"	"
1903	(See Notes)	Williams Armitage
1904	Wm. Kiddier/George Hodgson	"
1905	"	"
1906	Herbert Baker/Adam Knight	Samuel Parr
1907	"	"
1908	"	"
1909	"	"
1910	"	"
1911	"	"
1912	"	"
1913	"	"
1914	"	"
1915	"	"
1916	"	"
1917	"	"
1918	"	"
1919	J. R. S. Park	T. H. Jones
1920	"	"
1921	"	"
1922	J. A. Ness, A.R.E.	H. P. Gill, M.S.A.
1923	N. Denholm Davis	"
1924	Arthur Spooner, R.B.A.	H. R. Wibberley
1925	N. Denholm Davis	"



Year	Vice-Presidents	Hon. Secretaries
1926	Stacey Blake	H. J. Dutton
1927	Adam Knight	"
1928	T. W. Hammond	"
1929	Edgar Wollatt	"
1930	E. O. Cooke	"
1931	F. Hammersley-Ball	Alfred Parker, N.R.D.
1932	N. Denholm Davis	"
1933	Joseph Else, R.B.S.	"
1934	George Hardy	"
1935	"	"
1936	"	"
1937	"	"
1938	Arthur Spooner, R.B.A.	"
1939	"	"
1940	"	"
1941	W. T. Bradley Chambers, L.R.A.M.	"
1942	Arthur Spooner, R.B.A.	"
1943	H. J. Dutton	"
1944	Ernest Perry	"
1945	Mrs. R. A. Foster	"
1946	Alfred Parker, N.R.D.	"
1947	R. Harley Smith, A.R.I.B.A.	L. Theodore Else
1948	Edwin Marsh	"
1949	Harry Freckleton	"
1950	Basil Bastow	"
1951	C. A. Richards	"
1952	William Benner	"
1953	Herbert Collier	"
1954	Mabel Cottee	"
1955	Stanley Price	"
1956	W. T. Bradley Chambers	{R. C. Woods {Elsie Woods

## A YEARLY ACCOUNT OF THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES

### 1880

This year two art societies in the City amalgamated, forming one strong society under the presidentship of Mr. Samuel Bourne, with Mr. James Hart as Vice-President and Mr. Samuel Oscroft as Honorary Secretary. This was the beginning of the NOTTINGHAM SOCIETY OF ARTISTS.

Mr. Samuel Bourne, Mr. Arthur Black and Mr. Samuel Oscroft invited their fellow artists to paint at their houses during the winter. After tea the members used to sketch in watercolour from a subject given the previous week. This was followed by an exhibition, and often an interchange of sketches. Among the artists who attended these weekly meetings were James Turpin Hart, Henry Seymour, James Lees Bilbie, Tom Barrett, Matthew Doubleday, James Edwards, William Wilde and S. Lees.

At the same time another group of artists were meeting at Mr. S. Bestow's at the Wellington Hotel. Some of the artists who met to paint here were Claude T. S. Moore, Claude Harrison, Arthur Redgate, F. Warsop, F. Belshaw, E. Henson, and C. L. Shaw.

### 1881

Fortnightly meetings were held at the Social Guild Institution for sketching and for exhibiting sketches done at home, illustrative of subjects previously announced.

In May, June and July of this year there was a show at the Castle Museum and Art Gallery — between £700 and £800 worth of pictures were sold.

In December of the same year there was a dinner at the George Hotel.

### 1882

On January 3rd of this year the Annual General Meeting was held at Mr. Bingham's house.

There was a Spring Show at the Castle, and works to the value of £745.4.0 were sold.

The November exhibition was held at Mr. Bingham's house.



## 1883

In May of this year there was an outing to Swarkestone, and on May 7th a dinner at the George Hotel, attended by the Mayor.

There were 254 works shown at the exhibition: 111 were sold, totalling £940.14.0.

On November 28th of this year there was a soirée at the Masonic Hall.

## 1884

From this date ladies have been invited to the social gatherings, and also to become candidates for membership. Drawing from the living model began this year.

Three hundred and forty-three works were put on show at the Castle, and work to the value of £794.10.0 was sold. The Society bought an oil painting by Mr. F. Belshaw.

There was a sketching excursion to Chellaston and Haddon Hall.

Mr. J. T. Hart lectured on *Finish and Turner and his Contemporaries*.

On December 3rd there was an exhibition of sketches in the Exchange Hall, the use of which had been kindly given by the Mayor.

## 1885

The Society secured a room on Carrington Street Bridge as the tenants of Mr. Matthew Doubleday.

A small library was started, to which the President and Vice-President added volumes.

A rule was made that on election each member should contribute a diploma picture to be hung in the rooms.

There was a show at the Castle, where 344 works were hung and 71 sold, realizing £550. Owing to depression in trade the Society did not hold an Autumn show.

## 1886

The Life Classes this year had a negro, a shoe black and a blind man from the Poultry to act as models. The Sketch Club subjects included *Coast Scene*, *Misty Effect* and *Life and Death*.

In December a paper was read by Mr. Henry Seymour on *The Figure*.

Of 154 works shown at the Castle exhibition 19 were sold.

## 1887

The Annual General Meeting was held at Lamberts Restaurant, Wheeler Gate, on January 11th.

The Sketch Club met at 6, Victoria Street, where some of the subjects were *Breezy Day* and *A Raid in the Highlands*.

On May 26th a sketching excursion was made to King's Mills, followed by a dinner at Castle Donington.

Mr. Trythall Rowe gave a folio of his own etchings of Old Nottingham and Mr. Windle presented a picture by Mr. James Edwards.

## 1888

The Life Class had as their model a man in armour.

Mr. George Hodgson painted a portrait of Mr. Samuel Bourne and it was hung in the Society's rooms.

Mr. Matthew Doubleday designed and made a bookcase to hold the Society's volumes.

A beautiful writing case was presented by the members (32 contributing) to Mr. A. G. Bates as an acknowledgement of his useful services as Assistant Secretary to the Society.

At the Castle 229 works were hung and 34 were sold for £184.

On May 26th a sketching outing was held at King's Mills, attended by twenty members. It was a lively scene to witness so many energetic workers sitting under their white umbrellas within a stone's throw of each other. Dinner followed at the Moira Arms, Castle Donington.

## 1889

The number of members of the Society began to increase. The Life Class and sketching classes were well attended and two social evenings were devoted to lantern slides shown by Mr. S. Bourne.

On June 15th twenty members spent the day at King's Mills.

## 1890

The Society showed 236 works at the Castle, and of these 12 were sold.

Mr. Samuel Bourne twice showed his lantern slides during the season, and on December 16th a Smoking Concert was held.



## 1891

At the Spring Show, held at the Castle, the Society showed 90 works. The Society had moved from the rooms on Carrington Street Bridge by this time to 6, Victoria Street, and here 133 pictures were on show in the Autumn.

Mr. William Kiddier loaned, and later gave to the Society, a number of costumes for draping the model. Mr. Pickerill gave a sword and a battle axe.

A Smoking Concert was arranged at which the President showed some of his photographs of Ireland.

## 1892

Mr. Samuel Bourne, President of the N.S.A., was elected a magistrate of the Borough.

Mr. George Hodgson was elected Honorary Secretary.

Two experiments were made this year:

- (1) Drawing from the nude.
- (2) An independent exhibition of the exclusive works of the Society.  
This was held from November 12th to 26th at Messrs. Shepherds' Gallery, admission 6d. Each exhibitor was allotted 25 square feet of wall. This venture showed a loss of £15.12.0.

At the Spring Show *Busy Bodies and Busy Bees*, painted by Miss Lucy A. Leavers, was bought by Alderman John Renals, J.P., and given by him to the Castle.

On May 21st twenty members went sketching at Papplewick.

## 1893

The first Monday in the month became a Social Evening, when sketches were put up. A fine of 6d. was charged if a member arrived without a sketch.

In this year Mr. William Kiddier was made Honorary Secretary.

Mr. Bourne showed his slides during March.

SKETCHING OUTING TO EDWINSTOWE: Eleven members left Nottingham at 8.15 a.m. by brake to "Merrie" Sherwood Forest. During dinner at the Royal Oak, Edwinstowe, comic verse written by George Hodgson was read in celebration of the excursion.

In the Autumn a show was held for three days in the

Mechanics' Lecture Hall. The chairs and carpets were hired from Herbert Barker.

During this year the rules of the Society were revised, the new rules being founded on those of the following Societies:

- (1) Royal Institute
- (2) Royal Birmingham Society of Artists
- (3) Manchester Academy of Arts
- (4) Yorkshire Union of Artists
- (5) Liverpool Society of Artists
- (6) Sheffield Society of Artists
- (7) Leicester Society of Artists
- (8) Derby Sketch Club.

## 1894

Herbert Baker was made Honorary Secretary.

On February 5th an interesting exhibition of early works was shown at Victoria Street. The works were in oil, watercolour and pen and wash. Many had been painted 50 years ago.

An evening each month was set aside for the exhibition of works by individual members in turn; remaining on view the following day.

On November 5th the first exhibition was given by Mr. S. Bourne, who had oil sketches on view, and Mr. S. Oscroft, who showed drawings of the Isle of Skye.

On December 3rd Messrs. G. Hodgson and T. Meldrum showed 73 works. George Hodgson's watercolours depicted the North Devon coast and Snowdon districts of North Wales. Mr. Meldrum showed oils, watercolours and black and whites, among the latter being his Academy picture of the year.

In May there was an outing to Edwinstowe.

## 1895

At the Annual General Meeting it was announced that the Society had been given notice to quit their room in Victoria Street by June 24th. In May the Society moved into Cobden Chambers, Pelham Street, as their premises were being disturbed by changes resulting from the construction of the railway.

Members showed their work at the social evenings. Messrs. A. Knight and W. Windle showed 20 oils and 8 charcoal drawings to ten of their fellow members.

In February four members brought their work, and in April three members showed 47 oils and 11 watercolours.

Eighteen artists attended an outing to Bakewell and Haddon Hall on May 25th.

Mr. Arthur Marshall, A.R.I.B.A., designed a cover for the catalogue which was used for the following seven years.



## 1896

The year opened by an exhibition of pictures and objects of art lent by members. The Autumn exhibition opened on November 17th and was attended by 709 people during the eleven days the show was open to the public.

On May 21st the outing was again to Bakewell, where the members painted the river Wye and views of Haddon Hall.

Mr. Henry Seymour, one of the founders of the Society, resigned through ill health. Mr. Seymour was assistant drawing master at the High School for thirty-five years. He had retired in 1895.

## 1897

In May of this year an outing was arranged to Ashford-in-the-water.

An exhibition of sketches and studies was held from 15th to 27th November.

This year saw the formation of the Nottingham Atelier. On the 15th October a meeting was held at the People's Hall, Heathcote Street. Mr. Wm. Kiddier was in the chair. The object of the meeting was to get a number of artists to co-operate in opening and maintaining a Life Studio, this to be known as the Nottingham Atelier. Mr. Alexandra Gascoyne was elected Honorary Secretary. At a further meeting, held in November at 71 Upper Parliament Street, it was decided to provide a female model for Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. On Saturday afternoons there was a class at 2.15 p.m., and in the evening from 7 until 9 p.m. At this time the Nottingham Atelier were very Bohemian. Their studio was a cellar-like room in Parliament Street.

## 1898

At the Castle show 40 works were sold for £195.12.0, of which 17 were works by members.

On Thursday, 10th November, the Autumn exhibition was opened and the 125 works stayed on the walls until 26th November. Sixteen works were sold and over 1,248 people saw the exhibition.

On 19th May members went by train to Rowsley and thence by waggonette to Alport, where those finding it too cold to work explored Lathkill and Bradford Dales. They met for dinner at the Bull's Head, Youlgrove.

Mr. S. Turpin, cousin of Mr. James T. Hart, resigned owing to ill health.

Mr. Samuel Bourne, President of the N.S.A.; Mr. James T.

Hart, Vice-President; and the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Herbert Baker, attended life classes at the Nottingham Atelier at the invitation of the President, Mr. Wm. Kiddier.

On the 20th February the first social of the Nottingham Atelier was held. Members' work was on show and the meeting was entertained by songs and humorous recitations.

In June Mr. Edgar Woollatt was made Secretary in place of Mr. A. Gascoyne, who retired. The first annual dinner of the Atelier was held on the 15th October at the Maypole Hotel, at which 50 members were present.

## 1899

Mr. H. Baker resigned the office of Honorary Secretary on the 6th November of this year and Mr. Charles Knight filled the post.

In the Nottingham Atelier members gave sketches to be sold to help towards the funds of the Society. A picture by Mr. Claude T. S. Moore was purchased by the Atelier.

## 1900

In March of this year Mr. Harold Knight and Miss Laura Johnson became Associates. In April they were elected as full members of the Society.

On June 14th there was a sketching excursion to Woodhouse Eaves.

There were weekly meetings in the summer for outdoor sketching.

At the Nottingham Atelier on the 27th February Mr. George C. Haite, R.B.A. President of the London Sketch Club, gave an address on *Art and Artists*. After this talk there was a criticism of members' work, which included paintings in oils, watercolours, black and white, posters and lace and wallpaper designs.

In October Mr. G. C. Haite, R.B.A., was elected President, with Mr. Wm. Kiddier as Vice-President.

This year the Atelier moved to a studio in Clumber Chambers, Thurland Street. Here they met three times a week to draw from the model, and on Fridays they did memory work. They often finished the evening with a sing-song.

## 1901

From this time onwards the Society of Artists showed considerable vitality. The Corn Exchange, Thurland Street, housed an exhibition of 230 works for a fortnight. Two hundred guests were invited to a *Conversazione* and a programme of music. The



exhibition was "felt by the Council to be a step in the right direction; as by opening a gallery in the centre of the City many persons availed themselves of a visit to it who would not have done had it been more distant".

A sketching outing was held at Ambergate on June 9th.

This year five members of the N.S.A. met Messrs. Farmer, Kiddier, Wilson and Walker to discuss the terms of amalgamation between the N.S.A. and the Nottingham Atelier. It was agreed that all members of the Atelier were to be admitted as Associates and be elected to full membership on their merits.

## 1902

The Spring show was held at the Castle, but the Society did not arrange an exhibition in the Autumn because they could not produce enough works.

During this year the N.S.A. and the Nottingham Atelier became officially amalgamated, and it was arranged to rent the room in Thurland Chambers which had been used by the Atelier as their studio.

## 1903

On the 30th January the following gentlemen were elected as Vice-Presidents: Arnesby Brown, G. H. Wallis, F.S.A., Lord Belper, Edwin Ward, Samuel Oscroft, Sir Samuel Johnson and Arthur J. Black.

The following artists were elected as full members: Arthur Spooner, William Kiddier, Tom Browne, Tom Hammond, Edgar Woollatt and Walter Farmer.

On April 27th Mr. Wm. Kiddier presented Mr. Walter Farmer with silver-backed brushes in recognition of the services he had rendered to the Atelier Society.

On May 28th fifteen members met at Cromford for sketching and later dined at the Greyhound Inn.

The death occurred of Mr. Henry Seymour at the age of 71. He was one of the founders of the Society and was for many years art master at the Nottingham High School. His pictures were sunny and he mostly painted landscape.

## 1904

This year it was felt that the Vice-Presidents of the Society should be active members of the Society, so Messrs. Wm. Kiddier and George Hodgson were elected to fill the office. Mr. Wm.

Armitage, for his services as Secretary, was presented with a portrait, painted by Mr. Arthur Spooner.

It was decided to discontinue the local artists' show at the Castle, so the Nottingham Society of Artists held their own show and invited non-members to exhibit works for a small hanging fee.

An outing was arranged to Newark, where members painted the old castle and subscribing members toured the town.

## 1905

There was an outing to Ollerton, where members visited the studio of Mr. Wright Barker.

Mr. William Stevenson Holbrook left a sum of money for the purpose of encouraging the development of the art of painting. There were to be awards made to four paintings. As there was no Local Artists' show at the Castle this year, the awards were made to the following works by artists of the Nottingham Society of Artists:

Arthur Spooner	<i>Iris</i>	Oil
Laura Knight	<i>There's Many to Keep</i>	Watercolour
Alfred Oliver	<i>Peace, Perfect Peace</i>	Oil
T. W. Hammond	<i>Over the Ocean's Breast</i>	Pastel

These awards continued to be given to artists living within a thirty-mile radius of the City of Nottingham.

## 1906

Mr. Herbert Baker and Mr. Adam Knight were Vice-Presidents, Mr. Samuel Parr was Honorary Treasurer and Secretary.

Mr. Walter Farmer was elected as an Honorary Member.

The Society decided to purchase some work by the late Mr. Arthur W. Redgate, who died this year.

## 1907

The Society held a dinner at the Mikado Café on February 13th. Mr. Samuel Bourne presided. Mr. Wm. Kiddier made a speech in which he said that he was indebted to Mr. Stacey Blake for the answer to his query "What is Art?" Mr. Blake had replied: "Art is the ability of one man to show others what they did not themselves observe."

In April an Art Union was formed on the lines of that run by the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists. Tickets, a shilling each, were sold to members and friends, and when the draw took place



there were three awards of £15, £10 and £5. The winners were allowed to select a work or works from the current exhibition according to the catalogue price. This scheme helped members to sell their paintings and also created interest in the exhibition. The Art Union flourished for many years, but eventually it was abandoned as some of the winners were choosing the moderately priced works and so taking away fifteen to twenty paintings.

## 1908

On February 20th of this year the annual dinner was held at the Mikado Café.

In November Mr. Harold Knight and his wife, Laura Knight, were elected as honorary members of the Society.

## 1909

This year the Annual Dinner was held at the Albert Hotel.

The Autumn Show was held at Keep's Gallery. A wall space of sixteen feet was allotted to each artist.

In November student members were admitted to the Society for the first time. The students were able to join without submitting their work to the Council.

## 1910

The Annual Dinner was held at the Albert Hotel during April.

## 1911

The Dinner was held at the Albert Hotel on April 7th.

The ladies of the Society used the rooms for a Life Class one afternoon a week.

## 1912

This year it was decided to create the office of Acting President or Chairman, and Mr. Adam Knight was elected to fill this office.

In May the Society's President, Mr. Samuel Bourne, died. Painting was a lifetime's hobby for Mr. Bourne. He had travelled extensively and painted landscapes in watercolour in India and on the Continent, as well as in England. Mr. Bourne had a keen sense of beauty in nature. Several of his works were exhibited at the Suffolk Street Galleries, London, between 1880 and 1887.

Mr. Arnesby Brown, A.R.A., agreed to become President of the Society and he opened the Autumn Show.

The Society moved in this year to Messrs. Sparrow & Sons' rooms in Park Row.

## 1913

Life classes were held on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and memory sketching on Fridays. A male model sat one evening a week and a female model twice a week.

In November some members brought pictures and sketches to place on the walls or in a portfolio for mutual criticism.

An exhibition of articles and pictures in the possession of members of unusual value or interest was held.

The rules of the Society were revised, and the office of Municipal Vice-President was created.

The Annual Dinner was held on March 10th — the President, Mr. Arnesby Brown, being present.

There was an excursion to Breadsall in May.

The Autumn Show was held from October 11th to 25th.

## 1914

This year the Annual Dinner was held at the Mikado Café.

Mr. Stubington gave a lecture on *A Short Holiday in Florence*. Mr. N. Denholm Davis and Mr. Harold Knight criticized the sketches on the walls.

In November Mr. J. A. Ness talked about *Black and White and Monochrome Painting*.

An open show was held in October.

A social evening was held when Associate Members only showed their work on the walls.

There was an outing to Newark in June.

## 1915

An extra Life Class was held this year.

There was an excursion to Hemington by brake on Saturday, 5th June.

In February Mr. F. H. Ball read a paper on *G. F. Watts and his work*. This was illustrated by reproductions kindly lent by Mr. Keep.

## 1916

Mr. T. W. Hammond gave a talk about *English Sketching Grounds* and illustrated his talk with his own sketches.

## 1917-1922

These years saw the older members of the Society working hard to keep the Society together while many of the members were fighting during the war. A small group used to meet at Park Row for sketching and criticism.



## 1922

President ... ..	Arnesby Brown, R.A.
Vice-President ... ..	J. A. Ness, A.R.A.
Municipal Vice-President ... ..	Alderman Manning
Chairman ... ..	Tom Jones, A.R.C.A.
Hon Treasurer ... ..	Edgar Woollatt
Hon. Secretary ... ..	H. P. Gill, M.S.A.

An anonymous donor gave a prize to be awarded to the best sketch done at one of the Friday night classes.

At the November Social Mr. Arthur Spooner spoke on the exhibition of pictures on show at the Castle.

A portfolio of works by members was sent to Sir Jesse Boot in appreciation of financial help to the Society.

## 1923

Vice-President ... ..	N. Denhom Davis
Chairman ... ..	Mr. J. R. S. Park

The Council offered three prizes for members, associates and students, in the form of books, to be given for the best sketch done during the season and exhibited on the walls.

The Arts Ball was arranged by the Society.

## 1924

Vice-President ... ..	Arthur Spooner, R.B.A.
Municipal Vice-President ... ..	Alderman E. L. Manning
Chairman of Council ... ..	N. Denholm Davis
Honorary Secretary ... ..	H. R. Wibberley

Mr. Spooner and Mr. Davis, on behalf of the Society, presented Mr. Park and Mr. Gill with albums of sketches.

The Men's Life Class was held on Monday evenings and the Ladies' Life Class on Tuesday mornings.

Mr. Blake spoke on *Spain and Morocco*, and Mr. Arnesby Brown, R.B.A., visited the Society and attended this social.

## 1925

Vice-President ... ..	N. Denholm Davis
Chairman ... ..	Tom Jones, A.R.C.A.

Mr. Edgar Woollatt resigned his office as Honorary Treasurer.

In June there was an outing to Edwinstowe.

In October Mr. Spooner gave a talk on *Sketching in Venice*.

## 1926

Vice-President ... ..	Stacey Blake
Chairman ... ..	H. R. Wibberley
Honorary Secretary ... ..	H. J. Dutton
Honorary Treasurer ... ..	Harry White, A.C.A.

Sketches by members were presented to Mr. Harry White as a wedding gift.

Mr. Leonard Richmond gave a colour demonstration on *Pastel Painting*.

On the 15th May there was an outing to Edwinstowe.

Mr. Tom Hammond's book of drawings of Old Nottingham was bought for the Society's library.

At an extraordinary meeting it was decided to make the subscriptions 2 gns. for members, associates and students; family tickets 2½ gns. and subscribers 17/6d.

## 1927

Vice-President ... ..	Adam Knight
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This year Rule 2 was altered to read "The Society shall consist of not more than fifty members."

The Society sent their congratulations to Laura Knight, an honorary member of the N.S.A., on her election to Associateship of the Royal Academy.

The following lectures were given:

Arthur J. Black, R.O.I., described his adventures in Sicily and brought a number of his sketches to make a delightful exhibition on the walls.

Arthur Robinson from the London Sketch Club gave a witty address on the present standard of beauty.

The Society's President, Arnesby Brown, R.A., addressed the members and brought one of his oil sketches to show.

Mr. Ralph Neville gave a lantern lecture on *Windmills*.

Borough Johnson, S.G.A., read a paper on the drawings of Michael Angelo. He brought many beautiful examples of his own work in chalk and pencil.

## 1928

Vice-President ... ..	T. W. Hammond
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Mr. Walter Farmer was made an honorary member.

The Men's Life Class was held on Monday and Thursday evenings, and the Ladies' Life Class was on Monday mornings and



Thursday afternoons. The Sketch Club was on Friday evenings.

At the April social Mr. R. D. B. Woods spoke on the properties of our paints and media.

Mr. Terrick Williams, A.R.A., with his own sketches as examples, gave a talk on landscape painting.

Mr. Arnold Haskell, B.A., spoke on the *Art of Ballet*.

Mr. Joseph Else, R.B.S., gave a lantern lecture on the beauties of ancient and modern sculpture.

Mr. Blake talked about *Nottingham's Waterway*.

Mr. Ellis Silas, F.R.G.S., spoke on *Palms and Paints*.

This year the Society was well represented at the Royal Academy.

## 1929

<i>Vice-President</i>	...	Edgar Woollatt
<i>Municipal Vice-President</i>	...	Councillor E. G. Underwood

Mr. Harry Rountree wrote: "It is a great refreshment to call in on the meetings of the N.S.A. Surely here we may live life to the full joining our fellow beings who love art for the very joy of art. Here we may get recreation and rest."

Mr. Cecil Howitt, A.R.I.B.A., spoke on the New Exchange Scheme.

The Club nights were informal evenings in which subjects near and dear to the painter's heart were thoroughly thrashed out. Members who opened up subjects for debate were: Messrs. F. H. Ball, Stacey Blake, A. Spooner, A. Foster, G. Hardy, E. A. Clinch, E. Woollatt and E. O. Cooke.

In December Mr. A. Spooner, Mr. F. H. Ball and Mr. H. J. Dutton started a lively debate on *The Artist, the Public and the Critic*.

The public show in November was the most successful up to date, attracting over six hundred visitors in nine days.

Mr. H. P. Gill's design for a monogram for the Society's stationery was adopted. (This superseded a decorative figure design by F. Hammersley Ball.)

## 1930

<i>President</i>	...	...	...	...	Terrick Williams, A.R.A.
<i>Vice-President</i>	...	...	...	...	E. O. Cooke

In his Annual Report on the 30th April the Honorary Secretary, Mr. H. J. Dutton, said that the 1929/30 season saw the completion of the 50th year of the existence of the Society. He

said: "The Life Classes have worked steadily on, and the Sketch Class, under the kind and guiding hand of Adam Knight, accomplished a season of splendid work, as was evident at the April Show."

Talks were given by members of the Society: Arthur Spooner on *Figure Painting*, George Hardy about *Corsica and Morocco*, and Charles Richards on Lithographic Art.

A *Merry go Round* was held at the Mikado Café on 12th December from 8 p.m. till 2 a.m. There was dancing, a revue and supper.

The Sketch Club meetings were greatly saddened by the death of their leader, Adam Knight. Mr. Knight was a very active member of the Society, serving as Vice-President and Chairman of the Council. He was an excellent landscape painter in watercolour. His work had delightful colouring and tonal qualities. He often visited the South of France and always returned with a series of lovely paintings.

Mr. A. E. Clinch also died this year.

## 1931

<i>President</i>	...	...	...	...	Terrick Williams, A.R.A.
<i>Vice-President</i>	...	...	...	...	F. Hammersley Ball
<i>Hon. Secretary</i>	...	...	...	...	Alfred Parker, N.R.D.

The talks at the social evenings were given by H. H. Collyer on *Selling Pictures* and Terrick Williams on *The Subject of a Picture*, and Arthur Spooner gave a demonstration in oils.

Two sketching outings were arranged to Zouch Mill in June and July.

One of the monthly exhibitions was devoted to works mainly by late members — J. A. Ness, F. C. Batson and Edgar Woollatt. Mr. J. A. Ness, A.R.E., was principal artist with T. Forman & Sons, the colour printers. He was a very good etcher and black and white artist. Mr. Edgar Woollatt was an active member of the *Atelier* and when that amalgamated he gave his services to the Nottingham Society of Artists. He was an excellent landscape painter.

## 1932

<i>Vice-President</i>	...	...	N. Denholm Davis
<i>Honorary Treasurer</i>	...	...	Alfred Groves.

Mr. Harry White, on resigning his office as Honorary Treasurer, was thanked for his services to the Society.

In July there was a sketching outing to Watnall. Members



visited Watnall Hall at the invitation of Sir Lancelot and Lady Maud Rolleston.

Some of the socials included a talk by Gui St. Bernard, Art Critic of the *Daily Chronicle*.

Mr. F. Hammersley Ball spoke on the preparation and execution of Frescoes, most particularly in relation to the works executed beneath the dome of the Council House.

In April Mr. Hesketh Hubbard, R.O.I., R.B.A., spoke about *Hogarth — the Founder of English Painting*.

Mr. Terrick Williams talked on *Art Teaching and Art Students*.

Mr. George Hardy offered to the Society a summer house at Cromford for the use of members as a studio and dormitory.

## 1933

The President, Mr. Terrick Williams, was made a member of the Royal Academy.

Mr. T. W. Hammond was made an honorary member of the Society.

Mr. Joseph Else, R.B.S., was elected Vice-President.

The Society's Secretary, Mr. Alfred Parker, gave a talk on *Nottingham Artists Past and Present*.

In July of this year a scheme was put forward for erecting new headquarters of the Society.

## 1934

Vice-President ... George Gordon Hardy

This year the Society obtained the lease of a piece of land on the south-east side of Friar Lane. All members were asked to remove their property from 11 Park Row by the 20th March.

The socials held at 11 Park Row included a talk by Mrs. R. A. Foster on *Flower Painting*. Mr. Alfred Parker spoke on *British Art*, with special reference to the exhibition at Burlington House. In March Miss E. Dobbin lectured on *Etching* and Miss Fleming on *Child Portraiture*.

In July the first Council meeting was held at the Studio, Friar Lane. Arrangements were made for a House Warming of the new studio in October. There was an exhibition of current works and a musical programme was arranged.

On Wednesday, 7th November, the Studio, Friar Lane, was officially opened by Lady Savile, who addressed a company of about 150 members and friends. Lady Maud Rolleston was in the

chair. Mr. H. R. Wibberley presented Lady Savile with one of his watercolours of *Sherwood Forest*. The opening ceremony was followed by a lantern lecture given by Mr. Stacey Blake on *Cycling through Spain, Portugal and Morocco*.

The new permanent home of the Nottingham Society of Artists was to be known as St. Luke's House, after the patron saint of the Artists' Guild. Mr. Percy Gill, a member of the Society, was the architect. The premises were designed to be self supporting, the ground floor and first floor being let off as offices, and a studio, gallery and cloakroom on the top floor. Mr. Joseph Else, R.B.S., designed and modelled the figure of St. Luke for Society's premises.

Lady Savile was made an honorary member of the Society.

Mr. George Gordon Hardy was made an honorary member in recognition of his services to the Society.

## 1935

Vice-President ... George Hardy

Talks at the social evenings included those given by Mr. F. H. Hall on *Victorian Art* and Mr. A. Spooner on *The Making of a Picture*.

In May a studio party was held in honour of Mr. Joseph Else, R.B.S., who had designed and modelled the figure of St. Luke which graces the facade of the Society's premises.

Works were sent by members to the Midland Society's show at Kettering.

From June 10th to 15th an exhibition of pictures was held at Messrs. Boots' Gallery, Pelham Street, during Pageant Week. Nearly 100 works were hung.

Mr. Arthur Spooner had two canvases excellently hung in this year's Royal Academy and sold both.

## 1936

President ... Harold Knight, A.R.A.

Vice-President ... George Hardy

Mr. Harold Knight, A.R.A., accepted the office of President of the Society in succession to the late Mr. Terrick Williams, R.A.

Dame Laura Knight, an honorary member of the Society, was elected a full member of the Royal Academy.

The Federation of Midland Art Societies held their exhibition at the Castle Museum and Art Gallery. The Lord Mayor of Nottingham opened the show.

Gilbert Solomon, R.B.A., spoke about *The Early English Landscape Painters*.



Sketching outings were arranged to Lambley, Woodborough, Bradmore, Bunny and Rufford Abbey.

In each of the monthly shows one member was invited to make a special contribution of six of their current works.

The death was announced of Arthur J. Black, R.O.I., at the age of 81. He was a landscape and mural painter and had four works at the Royal Academy between 1882-1893. He also had works on view at the Paris Salon. He was the first Secretary of the Society.

## 1937

President ... .. Harold Knight, R.A., R.O.I.

Vice-President ... .. George Hardy

Mr. Arthur Lowe was made an honorary member.

There was a lecture by Mr. Adrian Hill on *The Little Vexations of An Artist's Life* and one by Mr. F. E. Courtney on *Making a Woodcut*.

The Spring show was opened to the public from May 22nd to June 5th.

The Local Artists' show was held at the Castle Museum in the Autumn.

The Midland Federation Exhibition was held at Lincoln in October.

Outings were arranged by Mr. Stacey Blake and this year members sketched in the Castle grounds and on Woodborough Hill.

In conjunction with the Thoraton Society, members of the Nottingham Society of Artists compiled a list of historic and artistic places of interest in the City which they considered should be preserved. The list was sent to the Town Clerk.

Mr. E. O. Cooke died in March. He was a skilful painter of landscapes and flower studies.

Mr. Harold Knight, President of the Society, was elected a full member of the Royal Academy.

## 1938

President ... .. Harold Knight, R.A., R.O.I.

Vice-President ... .. Arthur Spooner, R.B.A.

This year the rules were revised so that the whole body of members could have a voice in the election of the Council.

One of the visiting lecturers was Mr. Lawrence Oakley, who talked about cutting *Silhouettes* and he used members of the audience to illustrate his talk.

The Midland Federation Exhibition was held at Lincoln.

In August an outing was arranged to Althorp to see the private collection of Earl Spencer.

Members of the Derby Sketch Club visited the Society to discuss the art of painting in oils, watercolours and black and white.

## 1939

President ... .. Harold Knight, R.A., R.O.I.

The outbreak of war in September brought many problems for the Society, but classes and socials were carried on throughout the war years. The hard work of the Council and the loyalty of all members helped to keep the Society going through those difficult times. Many members were called to the Forces, but they were kept in touch with the Society's activities.

The blackout problem at the Studio was solved by fixing folding material over the roof and Mr. George Hancock made shields for the spot lights. The Midland Federation Exhibition at Worcester had to be cancelled.

In the early months of the year there were talks by Mr. F. E. Courtney on *Wood Engraving*, Mr. Spooner, R.B.A., talked on *My Outlook*, and Miss Hilda Smart talked about *The Painter's Materials*. Musical programmes were also arranged and there was a demonstration of Natural Movement Dancing.

In December there was a show open to the public and 209 people visited the show during the week. One of the monthly exhibition was devoted to black and white and monochrome works.

On April 28th Mr. George Hardy travelled from his new home at Bournemouth to be presented with a folio of drawings by members of the Society.

Sketching outings were arranged to Clifton, Bradmore Gaythorpe and the Castle grounds.

It was with deep regret the Society heard of the death of Mr. Fred Hammersley Ball, who was a leading member of the Society. He lived at Sandiacre as a young man and began his career as a lace designer. He studied in Paris with F. W. Milmine for a year or two and then returned to Nottingham to work with Thomas Formans as a designer, and later with Tom Browne Ltd. He had exhibited at the Royal Academy several times and won international prizes for his pencil drawings. He won many prizes in the, *Studio*, monthly competitions for his pencil drawings, which appeared under the pseudonym *Pan*. He has been awarded the Holbrook Prize. An example of his work can be seen in All Saints' Church, Raleigh Street, Nottingham. This is a triptych depicting *The Feeding of the Five Thousand*, for which he used his own son, Mr. H. Collyer and Mr. Stacey Blake as models.

A memorial exhibition was held at the Castle during the year.



## 1940

It was decided to extend the season this year by holding socials in May and June, when the hours of longer daylight could be used. Suggestions were made that lantern lectures could be held after the blackout period, and Dr. Llewellyn began in December with an illustrated talk entitled *Penny Plain and Twopence Coloured*.

As no Spring show could be held at the Castle Museum, an exhibition of work by members was held in the studio in June.

Mrs. Hammersley-Ball offered an example of her late husband's work to commemorate his long association with the Society. Her offer was accepted with thanks.

In January Mr. C. A. Richards gave a demonstration on the *Drawing and Layout of a Head*. Mr. R. Harley-Smith spoke on *Nooks and Corners of Britain*, Mr. H. R. Wibberley on *Here and There*, and Mr. A. H. Rodway, A.R.C.A., Principal of the Nottingham College of Art, gave a talk entitled *Some Random Thoughts on Art in Wartime*.

In May Mr. H. Clarence-Whaite spoke about Medieval wall paintings in England, and illustrated his talk with drawings from the originals.

The Honorary Secretary and Mrs. Parker instituted the series of Studio Parties which they gave at intervals throughout the war years to assist in maintaining interest in the Society and social intercourse among the members.

## 1941

President	...	...	...	Harold Knight, R.A.
Vice-President	...	...	...	W. T. Bradley Chambers, L.R.A.M.

The Life Class was held on Saturday afternoon, and the Sketch Club on Sunday mornings.

A party was held at the Studio on May 15th. Miss Mabel Cottee and Mr. R. Harley Smith, A.R.I.B.A., acted as host and hostess.

The Society sent paintings to be on show in Mansfield Art Gallery from 14th May to 14th June. ...

Mr. A. Spooner gave two talks and demonstrations and Mr. Emil Muller arranged lantern slides made from photographs taken by members of the Society.

## 1942

President	...	...	...	Harold Knight, R.A.
Vice-President	...	...	...	Arthur Spooner, R.B.A.

This year the Friday evening Sketch Club was revived. The Life Class was held on Wednesday evenings and Mr. MacKay ran one on Saturday afternoons.

There were two open shows. The Spring show was opened by the Lady Mayoress. There were 80 pictures on view from April 25th to May 3rd. The Municipal Vice-President, Councillor E. G. Underwood, J.P., announced that it had been decided to award the William Holbrook Prizes to works shown in this exhibition as the Local Artists show at the Castle was not being held.

Another open show was held in December, when Lady Atkey addressed the members.

On March 28th Mr. and Mrs. Parker gave a party in the studio. Sunday morning sketching outings were arranged.

In March Mr. Eric Tunstall spoke to members about *The Approach to Figure Painting*. Mr. Neville Truman gave a lantern lecture on *Historic Costume*, Mr. William Benner spoke of the *Use of Perspective in Sketching*, and Mr. R. Harley-Smith, A.R.I.B.A., gave a talk illustrated by his own sketches and lantern slides on *The Bridges of England*. In July five members formed a team for a *Problems Panel* which was run on the lines of a Brains Trust.

## 1943

President	...	...	...	Harold Knight, R.A.
Vice-President	...	...	...	H. J. Dutton

Mrs. R. A. Foster opened the Spring show, which was open to the public from April 19th-May 1st. The Holbrook Prizes were awarded to six works in this show. A special exhibition was staged for the *Holidays at Home Week* in July. There was an open show from 13th-23rd December.

The Honorary Secretary, Mr. A. Parker, N.R.D., gave a talk entitled *The Artists in Wartime and Afterwards*. Miss W. Broadhead showed a selection of prints and Mr. Houghton spoke about *Churches*. In November Mr. H. R. Wibberley talked about *The Reflections of a Landscape Painter* and Mr. H. Sutton, A.R.C.A., on *Education Through Art*. Mr. H. J. Dutton organised an Art Quiz.

Two colour boxes were given to the Society and auctioned at one of the socials. Mr. H. J. Dutton gave prints of his woodcut, which were to be on sale on behalf of the Building Fund.

Mr. Houghton organised the repainting of the interior of the Studio.

*The Journal* offered to award prizes to works by members.



## 1944

President ... .. Harold Knight, R.A.  
Vice-President ... .. Ernest Perry

Again the Society held an exhibition during the *Holidays at Home Week*. This show was sent on to Mansfield.

The *Journal* prizes were awarded to Mr. Edwin Marsh, Mr. H. R. Wibberley and Mr. Basil Bastow.

Mr. Edwin Marsh offered to give instruction to students in the technique of watercolour on Tuesday evenings.

In August Miss Betty Jackson succeeded the late Mr. Alfred Groves as Honorary Treasurer.

Mr. William Boot became Trustee for the Society.

In January Mr. Alfred Parker spoke on *Decorated Boxes Through the Ages* and Mr. Arthur Spooner, R.B.A., spoke about *Making Preliminary Sketches for a Picture*. This talk was illustrated by his own paintings made at Newstead Abbey. In May Mr. R. Gillespie Williams gave a demonstration of colour lighting effects.

An Art Quiz was conducted by Mr. H. J. Dutton.

## 1945

President ... .. Harold Knight, R.A.  
Vice-President ... .. Mrs. R. A. Foster

This year marked the first occasion when a lady was elected to the office of Vice-President.

The public exhibition was opened by Councillor E. G. Underwood, J.P.

The Holbrook Bequest Prizes were awarded to Messrs. J. Bancroft, H. Collier, H. J. Dutton, E. A. Hickling and H. R. Wibberley.

An exhibition of members' work was held in the temporary City Art Gallery, Clumber Street.

A number of members gave talks at the social evenings. In January Mr. R. Harley-Smith, A.R.I.B.A., spoke about *Looking for a Picture* and Mr. A. Parker read a paper on *The Bonningtons*. In May four members opened up a discussion on *Some Debatable Questions*, Mr. F. Parker lectured on *Some Thoughts in Monochrome*, Mr. H. R. Wibberley spoke about *Watercolour Practice*, and Mr. H. J. Dutton *Trees*.

Mr. James Lees Bilbie, the last remaining foundation member of the Society, died in February. He was Assistant Curator at Nottingham Castle from 1904-1931 and one of his mountain landscapes hangs in the permanent collection. In 1884 two of his paintings were hung at the Royal Academy.

The Society heard of the sad loss of Mr. William Armitage, F.Z.S., who died in Jersey during the German occupation.

## 1946

The Municipal Vice-President was congratulated on being elevated to the Aldermanic Bench and on his election to office as Lord Mayor of the City.

Mrs. Kenneth Mitchelson (née Jackson) tendered her resignation as Honorary Treasurer as she was due to leave Nottingham in February. Miss Elsie M. Dixon was elected to the office.

In his Annual Report the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Alfred Parker said that "The first year of peace has brought an added keenness and increase in membership." Mr. Parker told the meeting that, "After holding office for 13 years I am anxious to see a younger man in office, one with more time at his disposal as far as the work of the Society is concerned." Mr. Parker was elected as an honorary member and was given an ex-officio seat on the Council. Mr. L. Theodore Else was elected as Honorary Secretary.

It was decided to continue the Life Class and the Friday Sketch Club during the summer.

Mrs. K. Mitchelson was presented with a portfolio of works by certain members.

Several talks were given by members during the season. Mr. A. Parker spoke about *The Graphic Arts of Reproduction* and Mr. Houghton on *Plastics*. Mr. A. Mackay talked about some of his own work and Mr. R. Harley-Smith, A.R.I.B.A., on *Perspective*. In October the Messrs. H. J. Dutton, W. T. Bradley-Chambers, H. W. Houghton and B. Bastow talked about *Summer Sketching and Sketching Grounds*. Mr. C. F. Pitman, M.A., spoke on *The Value of the Exhibition Movement*. Mr. Pitman was elected an Honorary Member of the Society.

Eighty members and friends enjoyed a programme of games and competitions at the studio party in February.

Public exhibitions were held both in the Spring and Autumn, Mr. Arthur Spooner, R.B.A., officiating at the opening of both these shows. An exhibition was also held at Mansfield.

## 1947

Mr. Arthur Spooner, R.B.A., was made President of the Society this year and, in proposing him for the office, Mr. Stacey Blake said that "In Arthur Spooner we have a member whose work and character commands our respect and affection."

The New Year party was arranged by Miss Mabel Cottee and Mr. R. Harley-Smith. During the evening Miss W. Broadhead, on behalf of the Society, presented Mr. Alfred Parker, N.R.D., with a



portfolio of members' sketches as a token of appreciation for his years of office as Secretary.

The Castle Museum and Art Gallery were reopened.

Sketching outings were arranged to Ab Kettleby in June, to Clifton in July, Shelford in August, and to Lambley in September. Mr. Edwin Marsh and Mr. H. R. Wibberley took members sketching out of doors on one or two evenings.

In January Mr. A. Parker, N.R.D., spoke about *Camouflage*, and in February Mr. E. Allcock gave a lecture entitled *With a Watercolour Box in India*. On February 22nd Mr. and Mrs. Parker gave a party at the studio. In March Miss H. Smart spoke on *As I see it*. Mr. Darwin Bartrop visited the Society to talk about *Animal Drawing from Life*. The Spring show was held from May 10th-23rd. Mr. C. F. Pitman, M.A., and Mr. E. Marsh both gave talks at the socials in October, and Mr. H. J. Dutton opened a discussion on art.

The fees were revised of Painting and Subscribing members, and a country membership was created for those living at a considerable distance from Nottingham.

## 1948

Mr. A. H. Rodway was made an honorary member of the Society.

The Spring show was opened by Mr. A. H. Rodway and the Autumn show by the Lord Mayor. To give wider publicity to the exhibitions, members were asked to submit sketches suitable for putting on showcards in shop windows. A show was held at Mansfield from July 19th to August 14th. Sir Henry Tate, Director of the National Portrait Gallery, talked about *The Tradition of English Painting*. Mr. Adrian Hill gave a lecture on *The Desire to Create*, Mr. Mayer-Martin read a paper on *The English Watercolourists and Watercolour Painting*, Mr. A. H. Rodway, A.R.C.A., talked about *Industrial Design*, and Mr. J. A. F. Devine spoke on *The Potter's Approach to Painting*. Mr. E. H. Atkin talked about *Composition — as an aid to Picture Making* and Miss Evelyn Gibbs on *Contemporary Painting*.

## 1949

A New Year party was arranged by Mr. and Mrs. A. Parker and Miss Cottee and was held in the Studio on January 8th.

The Local Artists show was revived at the Castle. The Society's Spring show was held from March 23rd-April 9th.

In January Mr. Neville Truman spoke on *Art in Relation to the Church*. At the February social Messrs. H. Freckleton, H. J. Dutton and H. W. Houghton brought a number of works to display

and for discussion. Canon Wilkinson read a paper on *The Architecture of England's Northern Cathedrals*. In March Mr. Harry Riley talked about *Direct Watercolour Painting* and Mr. Robert Lyon gave a demonstration of modelling a man's head in clay. In April two Winsor and Newton films were shown, *Romance of Colour* and *Wizard Fingers*.

Mr. E. A. Hickling had a watercolour of the beach at St. Ives hung in the Royal Academy.

## 1950

A party was held in the Studio at St. Luke's House, Friar Lane, on Saturday, 28th January. Misses E. Dixon, M. Cottee and E. Balfour were in charge, with Mr. A. Parker as Master of Ceremonies.

The Spring show was open to the public from 29th April until 13th May.

A sketching outing was arranged to Winster in Derbyshire, where members painted long-distance views or scenes in the village. Later, at one of the social evenings, there was a general discussion on the outing and an exhibition was held of the Winster sketches.

Twenty-six works by members were put on show at The Tudor Café, Broad Marsh. It was arranged to change the pictures at intervals.

An exhibition was held for a fortnight during the summer at St. Luke's House, Friar Lane.

Two members spoke at the social evenings. Mr. Edwin Marsh talked about *Outdoor Sketching* and Mr. A. L. Searle on *The Life and Works of Van Gogh*.

Mrs. R. A. Foster was made an honorary member of the Society.

The Journal prizes were awarded to Miss D. Parkin, Mr. E. A. Hickling, Mr. H. R. Wibberley and Mr. M. T. Burton.

## 1951

As this year marked *The Festival of Britain*, quite a number of our activities were connected with it. Several of the members demonstrated in watercolour at the Festival of Britain Travelling Exhibition. These works were then put on show in the Studio from 26th November until 1st December. The Vicar of Trowell invited the Society to hold an exhibition in the village hall during the Festival of Britain Week. Trowell was chosen as the *Festival Village* and many of the paintings were of the village and nearby scenes. The Society were also invited to send pictures to be hung



in the foyer of the Odeon Cinema. Miss Dorothy Watkins' painting of *The Valley of the Trent* was chosen to be sent to a National Exhibition in London, sponsored by the Odeon and Gaumont Cinemas.

A Festival Exhibition of local scenes was hung in the Studio. Miss Glen-Bott, the Municipal Vice-President, opened this show, which was on view to the public from September 17th to October 6th. The works included views of the city, park scenes, churches, old buildings and portraits of Nottingham people.

The Studio was redecorated.

## 1952

This year saw much activity in the Studio. The floors were reconditioned by sanding and staining and many members helped to polish the floor. The table and the boarding round the room were stained. A new method of picture hanging was introduced. In future no nails were to put in the walls and all pictures were to hang from the rail. Mr. Hayes made an ingenious gadget for measuring the cord. Green linoleum was put on the two platforms.

The Spring show was opened by Jack Merriott, R.I. Mr. Edward Seago was invited to send one of his oil paintings to the Autumn show. Members were invited to send works to the Salutation Inn.

Mr. Harry Freckleton had an oil painting hung at the Royal Academy and Miss Dorothy Watkins had work hung at the Royal Society of British Artists. Mrs. Elsie Woods had a watercolour hung at the Royal Institute of Watercolour Painting and Mr. L. Theodore Else had a mountain scene hung at the Royal Cambrian Academy.

Through the generosity of the Carnegie Trust three most enjoyable sketching week-ends were held in the summer. Mr. Jack Merriott, R.I., was the tutor at Colston Bassett, where farm buildings were studied. At Lowdham the party painted the stream and mill and Jack Merriott demonstrated. Mr. William Watkins, R.I., was the tutor at another week-end at Colston Bassett. This time the party painted the barns and cornfields. Earlier in the year William Watkins gave a criticism of members' work and demonstrated in watercolour at one of the social evenings.

Miss Mabel Cottee arranged two sketching week-ends in Derbyshire during the year. Eastwood Grange, a big house set in its own grounds high above Ashover village, was the centre. The first outing was on 3rd-4th May and the second on 25th-26th October.

## 1953

This year a complete new lighting system was installed in the Studio. As this was a costly business, it was decided by the Council to raise money towards it by raffling pictures given by members. Half-crown tickets were sold and brought in a considerable sum. Pictures raffled included works by Mr. H. J. Denham, S.G.A., S.M.A., Mr. H. R. Wibberley, Mr. Basil Bastow, and Mr. H. J. Dutton.

A special Coronation Exhibition in June was opened by Mr. Arthur Spooner, R.B.A., who had an oil painting on view showing Queen Elizabeth II's visit to Nottingham when she was Princess Elizabeth.

Mr. H. J. Denham, S.M.A., S.G.A., who acted as tutor at our sketching week-end, kindly consented to open our Autumn Exhibition. He was introduced by Miss Mabel Cottee, who held the office of Vice-President during the 1953/54 season.

The Society were invited to send exhibitions to Mansfield Museum and Art Gallery and at the Beeston Library.

As in previous years, we received a Carnegie Trust grant and were able to hold three week-end schools during the summer. Jack Merriott, R.I., was the tutor when we visited Ratcliffe-on-Soar. He demonstrated how to treat a river scene, and on the Sunday he painted the church. His demonstration was disturbed while a herd of cows went down the lane. Mr. Henry Denham, S.M.A., S.G.A., acted as tutor at the week-ends spent at Newark and Shardlow. The weather was perfect at each of these week-ends, and an interesting exhibition was held in the studio during November of the oils and watercolours painted.

Mr. K. E. Burnett visited the Society on November 11th to present the *Journal* awards to Mr. W. Benner, Mr. E. A. Hickling, Mr. H. Freckleton, and Miss M. Cottee. Mr. Burnett, who is the Editor of the *Nottingham Guardian-Journal*, said the awards would have to be discontinued because of the merging of the *Nottingham Guardian* and the *Nottingham Journal*.

Mrs. Elsie Woods was appointed Assistant Treasurer. Mr. C. A. Richards resigned as Secretary of the Thursday Life Class and Mr. Kenneth Smith took over the office.

Mr. Wm. Watkins, R.I., demonstrated in watercolour, and Mr. Edward Seago, R.B.A., talked to us in December.

Mr. W. Willbond presented three pieces of sculpture to the Society.

Miss Elsie Dixon arranged an outing to Stratford Memorial Theatre during the summer.

Many members had works accepted for the leading London exhibitions. Mr. Harry Freckleton had an oil painting, *Low Tide*, hung in the Royal Academy. He also had his self-portrait hung in



the Royal Society of Portrait Painters Exhibition. In this show was Mr. H. Collier's portrait of our President, Mr. Arthur Spooner, R.B.A. Mr. H. R. Wibberley, Mr. P. Spring, Mrs. E. Woods and Miss D. Watkins had work accepted for the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolours Exhibition. Mr. W. Benner, Mr. H. R. Wibberley and Mrs. Elsie Woods had work hung at the *Britain in Watercolours* exhibition. Mrs. E. Woods submitted four works to the Society of Women Artists and had them all hung. She was elected an Associate Member of this Society.

## 1954

During the year the N.S.A. had a number of lectures and demonstrations by visiting artists — Mr. H. J. Denham, Mr. J. K. Popham, Mr. J. Merriott and Mr. E. Swann. Two members of the staff from the Nottingham College of Art lectured to us, and Mr. H. Graveney from the Playhouse Theatre gave an illustrated talk on *Stage Decor*. Towards the end of the year four members spoke about their sketching experiences and showed sketches. In December Mr. B. Bastow gave a demonstration in watercolour painting. The President of the Society, Mr. A. Spooner, R.B.A., opened the Spring show. Mr. Edward Seago opened the Autumn show, which was visited by 964 people.

The Publicity Committee made a supreme effort to bring this show to the notice of the public. They advertised it well and a banner was hung from the studio window to attract the attention of passers-by.

An exhibition of work by members was held at the Mansfield Museum and Art Gallery.

During the year three week-end schools were held. In May Mr. J. Merriott, R.I., was the tutor at the Owthorpe week-end, when it was so cold and wet that most of the members painted in the village hall. Mr. Wm. Watkins, R.I., was the tutor at Newark, and Mr. H. J. Denham, S.G.A., acted as tutor at the Colston Bassett week-end. Miss M. Cottee arranged a sketching week-end at Ashover, Derbyshire. Twenty-three members went by special bus on Friday, 21st May, to Eastwood Grange. The weather was bitterly cold and members had to find shelter in barns or by stone walls.

The Society was very well represented in the London Exhibitions. Miss D. Watkins and Mrs. Elsie Woods exhibited the most works. They both had works hung at the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolour and at the Society of Women Artists. Miss Patricia Woods showed two lakeland sketches at these shows. Mr. A. Clayton and Mrs. Elsie Woods showed work at the Pastel Society. Mr. W. Benner, Mrs. Elsie Woods and Miss Patricia Woods had work hung at the *Britain in Watercolours* Exhibition. Miss D. Watkins, Miss C. Cottee and Mr. H. Freckleton were

represented at the Royal Society of British Artists Show. Miss Patricia Woods had her watercolour *In Nottingham Aboretum* hung at the Royal Academy.

It was with deep regret that the Society heard of the deaths of Mrs. Lilian Lee Foster and Mr. Jack East. Mrs. Foster had been a member of the Society for many years and regularly attended the socials, sketching week-ends and the Friday Sketch Club. She had a great love for old windmills, which she painted in watercolours. Mr. Jack East, A.R.I.B.A., was a student member of the Society and his sketches, both in watercolours and oils, were very fresh and full of sparkle.

## 1955

The N.S.A. marked its 75th year by purchasing the freehold of St. Luke's House.

At the dinner on January 15th Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Boot and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Marsh were the guests. Mr. S. Price, Vice-President, thanked Mr. Boot for his willing service to the Society as Honorary Solicitor, and he told Mr. Marsh how much the members appreciated his tuition at the watercolour class.

In February Mr. Kenneth Steel, R.B.A., S.G.A., talked to members about *Pencil Drawing*. There was an outing in March to the Royal Crown Derby Porcelain Co., and a sketching week-end was held at Ashover in April.

In his Annual Report Mr. L. Theodore Else said that he would have to resign his office as Honorary Secretary. Mr. R. C. Woods and Mrs. Elsie Woods were elected to act as joint Honorary Secretaries.

Councillor Alan Rook opened the Spring show: 1,040 visited this exhibition.

Members had works hung in the Pastel Society, R.I. and S.W.A. exhibitions. The Society were invited by the Workers' Travel Association to have 25 works on show as a group at the R.I. Galleries. Mr. H. Freckleton had an oil hung at the R.A., and his wife, Vera Freckleton, had a miniature accepted for the Paris Salon.

It was with deepest regret that the N.S.A. heard of the deaths of Mr. H. R. Wibberley and Mr. Edwin Marsh, both leading members of the Society. Mr. Wibberley gave devoted service, becoming a regular member of Council, for which he often acted as Chairman. When the Society built St. Luke's House he became

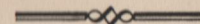


one of the trustees. Mr. Wibberley painted in both oils and water-colours. He will probably be remembered most for his Derbyshire landscapes, his mountain scenes full of vigour, and for his trees of Sherwood Forest. He was a regular exhibitor at many of the leading National Exhibitions and his work is included in the Nottingham Castle Collection.

Mr. Marsh was a brilliant watercolourist and for the past ten years had been tutor of the Society's watercolour class, where he most generously gave invaluable help until the week before his death. Mr. Marsh found beauty in the simple things of the countryside; his skies were magnificent and in his trees he excelled, for he loved them most of all. The Tuesday class will always remember him with deep affection.



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# A History of The Nottingham Society of Artists



— BY —

PATRICIA J. WOODS

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