

## ARTISTS' LOVING TESTIMONY TO THE COUNTRYSIDE

FLOWERS and shrubs, rivers, ponds and trees, all proudly recorded by Alton artists, were displayed at the annual Art Society exhibition as a loving testament to our beautiful Hampshire countryside.

Floral paintings seemed to dominate the show not only by sheer weight of numbers but also by the stunning variety of colours and styles employed.

Well known artist of fauna, Tana Riviere, was well represented with her familiar heavy use of paint and deep colours, but the use of the gentler medium of water colour produced some outstanding results for Pru Tapply and Viola Peacock.

They managed to capture the delicacy of the flowers they have painted as well as create accurate records of their subjects' yearly glory.

Among the landscapes it appeared that Selborne must be one of the most painted areas in the country.

There were nearly a dozen paintings of different aspects of the village and, again, the differences in treatment were interesting.

The merging of line and colour in "Saturday afternoon at Selborne," by Zweena Ta'Bois, contrasted sharply with the almost photographic record of "The Plestor, Selborne," by Eric Street.

Water, too, was a recurring theme among the landscape paintings and the subject of two captivating oils.

Anyone who has stood on the banks of a river very early in the morning, setting up their fishing tackle and waiting for

the sun to lift the mist off the water and reveal the first rise of the day, would have appreciated Norah Coggin's "River Bovey on a Misty Morning."

The gentle contrast between the hazy outlines of distant objects and the sharp clarity of those that are nearest are beautifully captured in this painting.

"The Lake," by B. Chambers, had none of these lyrical qualities, but it was a majestic view of distant mountains seen from across a lake, a picture that would grace any fireside.

People pictures were few and far between in this exhibition, but those that there were showed a generally high standard, only to be expected from those painters with enough confidence to attempt them.

Dorothy Dean's portrait of a breast-feeding mother was filled with a love and tenderness that contrasts sharply with the garish colours and outlandish happiness that leapt from P. Dorling's portrait of "John."

There were some fine examples of silk screen printing by Guy Vaesen that showed a distinctly professional touch and stood out very well with delicate desert shades and quality of light not always readily attainable by workers in oil.

Other paintings that showed professional and well practiced skill were the delightful "Prudence," by Jean Cooke and two works by Joan Wingate, one of which, "Running Free," was notably the most joyous picture in the exhibition.

A special mention must be reserved for the work of blind sculptor Jack Riviere, whose appreciation of form and movement is remarkable without even allowing for his handicap.

For sale at that end of the exhibition were some charming little "Mouse house" night lights which were very good value for money.

Of course, no Alton Art Society exhibition would be complete without the work of local school children. They really surpassed themselves and revealed a wealth of untapped talent that will provide hours of enjoyment in future years. There must be some very gratified parents and teachers in the town this week.

D. C.

## "Lonely Hunter" a winner for Molly

ALTON Art Society's annual show ended in a "photo-finish" as Farnham artist, Molly Dunwiddie, carried off the coveted "Exhibit of the Year" award.

There was just one vote in it as Mrs. Dunwiddie's "Lonely Hunter" captured the trophy from runner-up Dorothy Dean, whose "Mother and Child" study was an obvious candidate for honours.

In third place in the voting of visitors to the exhibition at the Assembly Rooms was Mary Towsey's "Waggoners Wells."

Chairman, Mr. Patrick Edwards, presented Mrs. Dunwiddie with the handsome award, which was made and given to the society by blind sculptor, Jack Riviere, last year.

Mrs. Dunwiddie, a member of the society for many years and a regular exhibitor, says she has painted "for as long as I can remember."

Her winning oil painting was not among the many exhibits sold during the course of the six day show. "I'm really rather glad about that," she said.

With nearly 200 other paintings, drawings and sculptures in the show, most visitors found something worthy of their vote.

Mr. Edwards thanked exhibitors for supporting the event with work of a very high standard and paid a special tribute to Show Secretary, Mrs. Joan Taylor.

He also presented prizes to the junior winners.

St. Lawrence's School's collage, "All things Bright and Beautiful" won the under eights with Sarah Hewitt's individual effort making her runner-up.

In the 9-11 years class, Wootey Junior School's fourth year took first prize and Rosemary Winter of Four Marks School was second.

Amery Hill pupils Lisa Kelly and John Cornelius were first and second respectively in the 12-14 years class and winner of the 15-17 years section was Melissa Reynolds of the Lord Mayor Treloar College with Teresa Maughan runner-up.

Four Marks juniors won the handicraft prizes.



Molly Dunwiddie receives the "Exhibit of the Year" award from Art Society Chairman Mr. Patrick Edwards