

J.C. RICHMOND

*James
Crowe
Richmond*

THE AUCKLAND CITY ART GALLERY
SEPTEMBER NINETEEN FIFTY SEVEN

FOREWORD

THIS EXHIBITION is devoted to the work of J. C. Richmond. An amateur painter of distinction, he was also one of the leading political figures of early New Zealand. Due to family cohesion and loyalty, we have had little trouble in finding material. We should like to express our sincere thanks to all the lenders (members of both the Richmond and Atkinson families) who have lent works, and also the Trustees of the National Gallery who have generously lent from their permanent collection.

The exhibition has been arranged and the catalogue prepared by Mr Colin McCahon.

P. A. TOMORY

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JAMES CROWE RICHMOND

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

JAMES CROWE RICHMOND was born in London in 1822. His father, one of the lawyers who helped draft the first Reform Bill of 1832, died at the age of 46, leaving a widow and four children.

The Richmonds were Unitarians, so James went to the Unitarian School at Hove House, Brighton, under Dr Hutton, then to University College, London. He trained as a civil engineer in the firm of Samuda, where he made the acquaintance of a fellow student, John Atkinson, beginning an important family relationship. After qualifying Richmond was employed for some time under Sir Isambard Brunel, then engineer to the Great Western Railway.

The health of an elder brother, Christopher, made it desirable that the family should leave England. James and Henry sailed in the *Victory* and on 1st February, 1851, landed in Auckland, leaving a few days later on foot for Taranaki by way of the Waikato and Kawhia.

Probably influenced by the beauty of Mt Egmont rising out from a sea of untouched bush, James and Henry bought four sections five miles inland from New Plymouth; and advised the Richmonds and the Atkinsons, now united by friendship and several marriages, to follow them to New Zealand.

Their first section, a small one, had been partly cultivated by a former holder. James and Henry added to it and when the rest of the family arrived in 1853, they increased their total area to 1,000 acres.

In 1852 Richmond contested the Taranaki seat in the Legislative Council of New Ulster. In 1853, when the Richmond family was settled, he returned to Europe, where he married Mary Smith, a first cousin of the Atkinsons. In Belgium he worked with an English company on railway construction; then painted in the Isle of Arran before he and his wife returned to New Zealand. For some time Richmond had shown a considerable talent for painting. He had almost no formal training, but from studying the work of his contemporaries and other painters whom he admired (Turner, Girtin, Prout, Cotman), and with his keen observation and feeling for landscape, he had developed a very proficient watercolour style.

Not long after the Richmonds' return to New Zealand, native affairs assumed an unfavourable aspect. The Rawiri-Katatore feud had plunged the Maori into a desultory tribal war. When the Taranaki Volunteer Rifle Company was formed in 1858 Richmond joined as a private. In November of that same year he was elected to the Provincial Council for the Grey and Bell constituency; shortly afterwards being appointed to the Executive. Richmond's disposition towards the Maori was very friendly, as can be seen from his contributions to

the *Taranaki Herald*. When in 1860 the Governor (Gore-Brown) intimated that he intended to proceed with the Waitara Purchase, Richmond warned that hostilities were likely to be far-reaching. When fighting commenced, Richmond was in the field as a volunteer and inspector of defences. His own farm was raided and the stock driven off. The house was preserved by the Maoris as a convenient rest place; but was accidentally burned after the war by carpenters engaged on reconstruction.

In 1860 Richmond was elected to the General Assembly as representative of Omata. The Taranaki Provincial Superintendent, Cutfield, resigned in 1861, and Richmond contested the seat and lost. In his election campaign he strongly urged the settlers to adopt a conciliatory tone in their peace demands, and to remember that those who now were enemies, were potential friends. A week later he was re-elected to the Provincial Council, though at the bottom of the poll. Having been correspondent of the *Nelson Examiner* for some time, Richmond decided later in this same year to move his young family to the less troubled atmosphere of Nelson. He became editor of the *Examiner*, occasionally practising his profession as consulting engineer to mining companies.

In March, 1862, Richmond was appointed to the post of Provincial Secretary; in which capacity he made several overland journeys on horseback down the West Coast and to Canterbury, adding all the time to his collection of landscape sketches. Voyages

down the West Coast by the ketch *Jane* to the mouth of the Grey River and an overland journey from Nelson to the mouth of the Buller produced some of Richmond's best work.

Until January, 1862, he remained a member of the Provincial Council for Grey and Bell, continuing as a member of Parliament for Omata. In August, 1864, he became member for Amuri in the Nelson Provincial Council, resigning from the Executive in 1865—it being considered that this post was incompatible with his tenure of the Commissionership of Crown Lands. When, in June, Weld offered him the post of Colonial Secretary, with a seat in the Legislative Council, he resigned from both the Provincial Council and the House. In 1865 he visited Central Otago and Dunedin, where he is known to have exhibited, and to have attended sessions of the art club founded by W. M. Hodgkins.

After his wife's death he moved to New Plymouth with his five young children to be near their relatives. In October, 1865, the Weld Government was defeated. Richmond joined the Stafford Government in 1866, being appointed Commissioner of Customs and Stamp Duties and informally, Minister of Native Affairs—Stafford explaining in the House that 'Native Affairs had so much improved that there appeared to be no longer any speciality in dealing with them'.

Richmond accepted these essentially civil portfolios, but very soon was riding hundreds of miles

visiting restless tribes. In 1866 he became chairman of the Native Affairs Committee; and later, was openly addressed as Native Minister. The years of his office were the years of the last Maori War, that with Te Kooti on the East Coast. As Native Minister, Richmond acted throughout in close association with the Defence Minister, Haultain, spending many weeks in the field until the defeat of the Government in 1869 put an end to his active participation in the campaign.

Out of Parliament at last in 1872, Richmond left for England with his three eldest children. While they were at school he lived and painted in the Tyrol and Switzerland; and for three years was engaged with an English company on railway construction in Algeria, between Oran and Tlemsen. Another three years were spent in London; and in 1880 the family returned to New Zealand.

In Melbourne, John Gully joined the ship. Gully had been a draughtsman and surveyor in the Provincial Service under Richmond, and had left the Survey Department in 1878 to devote himself to painting. He and Richmond spent some time sketching together at Milford Sound, the first point at which they landed in New Zealand.

Richmond again settled in Nelson, buying a house and building a studio. He spent most of the rest of his life there; though there were two further visits to England during this period,* as well as a trip to the headwaters of the Waimakariri, and

* See reference, page 12.

another with Gully to Lakes Manapouri and Te Anau. He made one more attempt to enter Parliament, contesting the Waimea seat in 1881. In 1883 he was called to the Legislative Council, leaving his studio each session to attend to his duties in Wellington until his final retirement in 1892.

James Richmond died in 1898 at Otaki.

* A drawing in the possession of Mrs G. L. Laurenson is inscribed, '*Suez Canal, Thursday, 2nd Voyage (with D.K.R.), 1889*'. See also Catalogue No. 52.

(D.K.R. — Dorothy Kate Richmond, daughter of J. C. Richmond.)

THE CATALOGUE

*Measurements are given in inches, height before width.
Sight size is the measurement of a painting as seen
within the frame or mount.*

1 A LUNCHEON ALFRESCO, RATANUI, TARANAKI, 1851

Lent by Mrs M. R. Champion

Watercolour, $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ (sight size)

Signed and dated J.C.R. 1851

2 THE RICHMOND HOMESTEAD, TARANAKI

Lent by Mr H. P. Richmond

Oil, $19\frac{1}{2} \times 30$

3 LANDSCAPE WITH TREES, TARANAKI

Lent by Mrs G. L. Laurenson

Watercolour, $13\frac{3}{4} \times 20$

4 IN NORTH SANNOX, ARRAN

Lent by Mrs B. M. Richmond

Watercolour, $9\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{8}$

Title inscribed on mount

5 LANDSCAPE, ARRAN

Lent by Mrs G. L. Laurenson

Watercolour, $7\frac{3}{8} \times 14$ (sight size)

6 STUDY OF HEATHER

Lent by Mrs G. L. Laurenson

Watercolour, $8 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$

Title inscribed on reverse

7 GLEN SANNOX, ISLE OF ARRAN
Lent by Mrs M. R. Champion
Watercolour, $9\frac{5}{8} \times 14$ (sight size)

8 DOVEDALE FROM ABOVE
Lent by Mrs B. M. Richmond
Watercolour, $17\frac{1}{4} \times 14\frac{1}{4}$
Title inscribed on reverse

9 DOVEDALE, DERBYSHIRE
Lent by Mrs B. M. Richmond
Watercolour, $14\frac{5}{8} \times 20\frac{7}{8}$
Title inscribed on mount

10 AUCKLAND FROM MECHANICS BAY
Lent by Mrs G. L. Laurenson
Watercolour, $14\frac{1}{4} \times 9\frac{3}{4}$ (sight size)
Probably c. 1860

11 'ISIS', BLIND BAY
Lent by Mrs G. L. Laurenson
Watercolour, $10 \times 13\frac{7}{8}$
Title inscribed on reverse

12 SEA PIECE
Lent by Mrs B. M. Richmond
Watercolour, $8\frac{1}{4} \times 12\frac{7}{8}$
Title inscribed on mount

13 DIGGERS HUT (THE ITALIAN PARTY) ON THE
BULLER, APRIL, 1861

Lent by the National Art Gallery, Wellington

Watercolour, $9\frac{7}{16} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ (sight size)

*Inscribed Hut of the Italian Party's Diggings on
Buller*

14 WEST WANGANUI ENTRANCE, WEST COAST

Lent by the National Art Gallery, Wellington

Watercolour, $7\frac{1}{8} \times 13\frac{5}{8}$ (sight size)

*Inscribed Entrance from inside Sunset, March 21st,
1862*

15 WEST WANGANUI LOOKING N.E. FROM THE
NORTH CHANNEL

Lent by the National Art Gallery, Wellington

Watercolour, $9\frac{5}{16} \times 14\frac{5}{16}$ (sight size)

*Inscribed W. Wanganui looking N.E. from the
North Channel, March 25th, 1862*

16 FROM OFF THE MOUTH OF THE GREY RIVER,
APRIL, 1862

Lent by Mrs B. M. Richmond

Watercolour, $2\frac{7}{8} \times 9\frac{3}{4}$ (sight size)

Title and signature inscribed on mount

17 AT THE MOUTH OF THE GREY RIVER, 1862

Lent by the National Art Gallery, Wellington

Watercolour, $8\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ (sight size)

Inscribed 1862 Tuesday, April White Rock Point

18 MT. ROCHFORD FROM THE BULLER RIVER

Lent by the National Art Gallery, Wellington

Watercolour, $8\frac{1}{8} \times 13\frac{3}{16}$ (sight size)

19 AMONG THE SPENCER MOUNTAINS

Lent by Mr H. M. W. Atkinson

Watercolour, $9\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ (sight size)

Inscribed on mount *Among the Spencer Mts. Sources of the Waiau-Uha River. query Mt Travers 1864-5 by J. C. Richmond*

20 DUNEDIN

Lent by the National Art Gallery, Wellington

Watercolour, $8 \times 13\frac{13}{16}$ (sight size)

Inscribed *Dunedin*

21 ON THE WATER OF LEITH, DUNEDIN

Lent by Mrs G. L. Laurensen

Pencil, $8\frac{7}{8} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$

Inscribed with title and colour notes. Signed J.C.R.

22 DUNEDIN FROM OCEAN BEACH, 1865

Lent by the National Art Gallery, Wellington

Watercolour, $7\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{15}{16}$ (sight size)

Signed J. C. Richmond

23 FLAGSTAFF HILL FROM THE TAIERI PLAIN

Lent by Mrs Esmond Atkinson

Watercolour, $8\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ (sight size)

Signed and dated J.C.R. 1866. Inscribed on reverse

Effect very fine when sun gets round in front and large tree is almost all shadow. A dappled grey sky with strong break of light diagonally intersecting tree, and the middle distance on the left in tingley (?) purple shadow.

24 FLAGSTAFF HILL, DUNEDIN, FROM THE SOUTH

Lent by Miss Rosalind Atkinson

Oil, 13 x 16

Inscribed *Flagstaff Hill*

25 ON WANAKA LAKE, OTAGO

Lent by the National Art Gallery, Wellington

Watercolour, 12 $\frac{3}{16}$ x 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ (sight size)

Signed *J. C. Richmond*

26 WANAKA

Lent by Mrs B. M. Richmond

Watercolour, 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 21 $\frac{1}{8}$

Inscribed *Wanaka*

27 ON WANAKA, EVENING

Lent by Mrs G. L. Laurenson

Pencil, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 14

Inscribed with title and colour notes. Dated 1865-6

28 CENTRAL OTAGO LANDSCAPE LOOKING TOWARDS
THE REMARKABLES

Lent by Mrs B. M. Richmond

Watercolour, 7 $\frac{7}{8}$ x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$

Inscribed *Remarkables*. On reverse, pencil drawing inscribed *Wanaka 1865-6?*

29 CENTRAL OTAGO

Lent by Mrs B. M. Richmond

Watercolour, $11\frac{1}{4} \times 18\frac{7}{8}$

Signed *J. C. Richmond*

30 THE OUTER SUGAR LOAVES, TARANAKI

Lent by Mrs B. M. Richmond

Watercolour, $11\frac{5}{8} \times 19\frac{7}{8}$

Inscribed *Outer Sugar Loaves, Taranaki. Motumahunga and Moturoa*

Signed and dated *J. C. Richmond 1865*

31 PARITUTU, TARANAKI, 1866

Lent by Mrs M. R. Champion

Watercolour, $15 \times 20\frac{1}{2}$

Title inscribed on mount. Initialled *J.C.R.*

32 OHINEMURI

Lent by Mrs G. L. Laurenson

Pencil $3\frac{1}{4} \times 6$

Inscribed *Ohinemure T* —

33 MAUNGA HAUMI, POVERTY BAY

Lent by Mrs G. L. Laurenson

Pencil, $3\frac{1}{4} \times 6\frac{1}{8}$

Inscribed *Maunga Haumi, Poverty Bay, 26th Jan.*

34 LAGOON AT GREYMOUTH

Lent by the National Art Gallery, Wellington

Watercolour, $8\frac{1}{8} \times 13\frac{13}{16}$ (sight size)

Inscribed *Grey Riv.: On the Beach 1867. G. Friday*

35 TE REINGA-WAIROA, HAWKES BAY

Lent by the National Art Gallery, Wellington

Watercolour, 13 13/16 x 9 7/16 (sight size)

Inscribed *Te Reinga Falls of the Wairoa, Hawkes Bay*

36 DUN MOUNTAIN RAILWAY

Lent by Mrs Esmond Atkinson

Pencil, 13½ x 19 (sight size)

Signed *J. C. Richmond* and inscribed *Dun Mountain Railway*

37 ON DUN MOUNTAIN

Lent by Mrs M. R. Champion

Pencil, 10¼ x 20½

Inscribed *On Dun Mountain, Maitai Saddle, Feb. 24/70*

38 DUN MOUNTAIN

Lent by Mrs Esmond Atkinson

Watercolour, 8½ x 12 (sight size)

39 FIVE DRAWINGS, MAGGIORE, LUGANO, COMO

Lent by Mr H. M. W. Atkinson

Pencil, sheet 20¾ x 14¼

Inscribed *August 14, 15, 16, 1878*

40 FROM UPPER FLOOR, SYRGENSTEIN

Lent by Mrs Esmond Atkinson

Watercolour, 8 13/16 x 12¾

Title inscribed on mount and dated *Aug. 1878*

**41 REEF ON BEACH MARAZION, MOUNTS BAY,
CORNWALL**

Lent by Mr H. M. W. Atkinson

Pencil, 5 15/16 x 8 11/16

Inscribed and dated *Marazion 18 Nov. 78*

42 MILFORD SOUND

Lent by the National Art Gallery, Wellington

Watercolour, 12½ x 19¼ (sight size)

Signed *J. C. Richmond*

43 FORD IN THE WAI-AU-UHA

Lent by the National Art Gallery, Wellington

Watercolour, 8 5/16 x 13 (sight size)

44 BRIDGE IN CONSTRUCTION

Lent by the National Art Gallery, Wellington

Watercolour, 9½ x 13 7/16 (sight size)

Inscribed *1st Bridge in Construction Waiau-Uha*

**45 RIVER ACHESON AT ITS JUNCTION WITH THE
RIVER CLARENCE**

Lent by the National Art Gallery, Wellington

Watercolour, 9 x 13½ (sight size)

46 LAKE MANAPOURI

Lent by Miss Rosalind Atkinson

Watercolour, 13 x 20

47 ON THE WEST COAST ROAD, CANTERBURY

Lent by Mr H. M. W. Atkinson

Pencil, 15 x 14 $\frac{3}{4}$

Signed J.C.R. and inscribed *Canterbury W. Coast Rd.*

48 TOTARANUI

Lent by Mr H. M. W. Atkinson

Watercolour, 10 x 14 (sight size)

Inscribed *Totaranui Jan/82*

49 TOTARANUI

Lent by Mrs B. M. Richmond

Watercolour, 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 14

Title inscribed on mount

50 URNERSEE ON LAKE LUCERNE

Lent by Mr H. M. W. Atkinson

Watercolour, 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 20 $\frac{7}{8}$ (sight size)

Signed and dated *J. C. Richmond, 1883*, and inscribed *Urner See, Switzerland*

**51 SUMMIT OF DENT DU MIDI FROM BEX,
SWITZERLAND**

Lent by the National Art Gallery, Wellington

Watercolour, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 17 $\frac{1}{2}$

52 STROMBOLI FROM S.S. CUZCO, 19TH DEC., 1885

Lent by Mrs G. L. Laurenson

Watercolour, 10 $\frac{3}{8}$ x 6 $\frac{7}{8}$ (sight size)

Title and signature inscribed on mount

53 PORT SAID

Lent by Mrs M. R. Champion

Watercolour, $4\frac{7}{8}$ x 8 (sight size)

54 NAPLES FROM POSILIPPO

Lent by Mrs B. M. Richmond

Watercolour, 15 x $21\frac{1}{2}$

Inscribed *Naples from Posilippo*

55 A WOODED SLOPE

Lent by Mrs B. M. Richmond

Watercolour, $16\frac{1}{4}$ x $13\frac{1}{2}$ (sight size)

Signed *J. C. Richmond*

56 POTTERY MILL

Lent by Mrs B. M. Richmond

Watercolour, $12\frac{3}{4}$ x 20 (sight size)

Signed *J. C. Richmond*

SOURCES

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