

Purchase of works by James McIntosh Patrick

Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest

1 June 2004

Purpose of report

- 1 To consider the purchase of a group of etching by James McIntosh Patrick.

Main report

- 2 The following group of etchings by James McIntosh Patrick (1907-1998) are offered for sale:

Title: **The Ramparts, Carcassonne**

Medium: Etching on paper

Size: 7½ x 6 inches

Inscribed: signed and dated 1927 and inscribed with the title

Title: **A Quaint Corner of Avignon**

Medium: Etching on paper

Size: 8¼ x 5¾ inches

Inscribed: signed and dated 1927 and inscribed with the title

Title: **Goat Fell**

Medium: Etching on paper

Size: 2 x 3 inches

Inscribed: signed

Title: **Palais des Papes, Avignon**
Medium: Etching on paper
Size: 4¾ x 8 inches
Inscribed: signed and dated 1928 and inscribed with the title

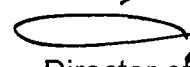
- 3 James McIntosh Patrick was born in Dundee and is best known for his paintings of the rural Scottish landscape, of the Borders, Fife, Perthshire and above all his beloved Angus. Patrick was an exceptional artist and his oil paintings chronicle the timeless cycle of the seasons. His painstaking recording of human life within the landscape is redolent of Breughel and other old masters.
- 4 Even before he went to study at Glasgow School of Art in 1924, McIntosh Patrick had started to experiment with etching, and largely taught himself the medium even before he enrolled at the college. In 1926, he spent three months touring in the south of France and three of the etchings under consideration derive from that tour.
- 5 McIntosh Patrick was influenced by successful Scottish printmakers of the previous generation including D Y Cameron, Muirhead Bone, James McBey and William Strang, as well as the French etcher Meryon. However, the overriding influence is the work of the Quattrocento Italian painters, in particular Piero della Francesca and Mantegna, as well as north European printmakers, including Dürer and Rembrandt.
- 6 The selection of the compositions, the depiction of the architecture, the rendering of light and shade, the range of marks, and the very fine detail all contribute to make these early works exceptional in McIntosh Patrick's long and prolific career. They are among the best Scottish prints of the period, and the artist's skill was acknowledged at the time by the fact of the print publisher Harold Dickins offering him a contract of £50 a quarter for the first refusal of his next few plates.
- 7 The collection already contains very fine oil painting by James McIntosh Patrick, *Stobo Kirk* of 1936, and a watercolour, *Volturno's Banks, Capua*, but no prints.
- 8 The group of prints is being sold by Bourne Fine Art of Edinburgh, where they were displayed in an exhibition of the artist's work. The prices are as follows:

The Ramparts, Carcassonne:	£375.00
A Quaint Corner of Avignon:	£375.00
Goat Fell:	£275.00
Palais des Papes, Avignon:	£425.00

- 9 Should the Committee approve the purchase of the prints, an application would be made for grant aid for up to a maximum of 50% of the cost from the National Fund for Acquisitions.

Recommendations

- 10 Acquire this group of prints by James McIntosh Patrick.



Herbert Coutts
Director of Culture and Leisure

Appendices	N/A
Contact/tel	Ian O'Riordan 0131-529 3955
Wards affected	City Wide
Background Papers	The Jean F Watson Bequest files are held by the Museums and Arts Division