Chairman's Report 20 June 1967

Patron

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother

Executive Committee

Whitney Straight CBE MC DFC	Chairman
Anthony Lousada	Vice-Chairman
James Melvin	Honorary Treasurer
The Hon John Sainsbury	Honorary Secretary
G. L. Conran	
Derek Hill	
Bryan Robertson, OBE	
The Hon Michael Astor	
The Lord Croft	
Alan Bowness	
Dr Kenneth Marsh	
Norman Reid	
Justin Knowles	
David Sylvester	
David Thompson	
Nancy Balfour	
Pauline Vogelpoel, MBE	Organising Secretary
Sylvia Wren	Assistant

My report covers the Society's activities from June last year until today. Our financial year as you know always ends on December 31st and our Honorary Treasurer will be dealing with our financial affairs in his report. During the period January to December 1966 our two buyers, Anthony Lousada and Loraine Conran, spent £5,101. 10. 0 between them on their choice of 21 paintings and 10 pieces of sculpture. This year our two buyers are Bryan Robertson and Derek Hill who, although due by rotation to retire at this meeting, are naturally invited to complete their task.

At the last Annual Meeting we were very sorry to have to say farewell to Peter Meyer who had been our Honorary Treasurer for so long but who, also by rotation and together with Eardley Knollys, retired from the Committee. We were pleased to elect James Melvin from our Committee to act as Honorary Treasurer.

In October last year, in response to many requests from members, we organised a second trip to Mexico. Thirty fortunate members who participated were handsomely entertained throughout the country, but particularly in Mexico City where gallery owners and private collectors gave receptions in their honour. They were privileged to visit Mr and Mrs Rufino Tamayo and to see Tamayo's most recent painting. In Cuernavaca they were entertained and met by Mathias Goeritz, the architect/sculptor, and also by Kitzia Hofmann Ysenbourg, the stained glass artist and her sculptor husband. Work by these artists was amongst commissioned works on public buildings seen by members during the trip.

A great deal of time was naturally spent in the magnificent new Anthropological Museum in Mexico City. This acted as a perfect introduction to the many fine archeological sites the party was to see on their subsequent extensive tour through Mexico. Half the party were also able to visit Guatemala, which by all accounts was a most rewarding experience.

This year, for the first time since 1960, we will not be venturing abroad owing to the currency restrictions, but are planning a weekend in Bath and a week in Scotland instead. Many members have asked us to plan a trip to India and we are at present making the necessary enquiries for a possible trip in 1968.

In November, soon after arriving back from Mexico, Miss Vogelpoel took 60 members to Manchester for what proved to be another most successful weekend trip following upon the lines

of the Liverpool weekend in 1965. Loraine Conran, the Director of the City Art Gallery, very kindly arranged to hang all the pictures presented by the Society since 1924 in one gallery and I am sure the members found this collection not only historically interesting but also very impressive. Also on view were some early catalogues of exhibitions relating to some of the works, and press-cuttings irately criticising the contemporary nature of the works! On the Saturday members were entertained to tea at Granada Television Head-quarters and shown their extensive picture collection, and in the evening there was a most enjoyable party at the Whitworth Art Gallery at Manchester University, where members were able to see the impressive alterations to the galleries; the Northern Young Contemporaries' Exhibition and several C.A.S. presented works. On Sunday morning Miss Margaret Pilkington, who was for many years the Curator of the Whitworth Art Gallery, very kindly allowed members to see her collection of paintings over a glass of sherry at her house on Alderley Edge, and in the afternoon Mr and Mrs G. D. Lockett kindly had a tea party in their music room at Clonterbrook House at Swettenham. After tea members spent a most enjoyable hour or so looking at Mr Lockett's charming gallery which houses his fine collection of 18th and 19th century British water-colours.

I am pleased to say that despite the fact that there are always several parties for exhibitions at the Tate Gallery, our parties seem to be as popular as ever. We are grateful to the Tate Gallery for allowing us to give these evening viewings of important exhibitions for our members. We had successful evening parties for the David Smith Exhibition on September 15th; the Rouault Exhibition on October 8th and for the Lowry Exhibition on December 7th. In September we also arranged an evening viewing of the Women's International Exhibition at the Whitechapel Gallery. This year we have held parties for the Young Con-temporaries' Exhibition on February 1st and a preview party for the Marzotto Prize Exhibition on April 20th. On May 4th members were invited to a special evening preview of the Kokoschka Exhibition at the British Museum, and to meet Mr Kokoschka himself. This was a somewhat historic occasion as it was the first time members have had the opportunity to visit the British Museum in the evening. Tomorrow night we expect nearly 500 people to our evening party to see the important Picasso Exhibition at the Tate Gallery.

Some of our members were fortunate in being able to join the charter flight to Paris for the day which we arranged on February 8th to see the Picasso Exhibition. Being able to get in to both the Petit Palais and Grand Palais to see the exhibition free of charge and ahead of the queues was a great privilege and enhanced what was generally agreed to be a most enjoyable and successful day. We have had many requests to repeat such day trips and we do hope that we will not disappoint members in our programme next year.

Our visits to private collections remain one of our most popular and unique "treats". This year, on April 29th, we were privileged to visit Lord Croft's collection at Hereford Square and Mr and Mrs James Melvin's at Pitt Street, Kensington. On behalf of the many members who took advantage of this charming hospitality I should like to take this opportunity of thanking our hosts on this occasion and also those who were so very kind to us in Manchester last year.

Apart from organising all these events our office is kept very busy lending our rapidly growing collection of recent acquisitions, pending their allocation to our 100 member galleries early next year. We have loaned pictures to several departments of London