

Exhibition of work by PHILOMENA KENNEDY

Deal Library Gallery 30 May - 16 June 1989

Sandwich Library Gallery 23 June - 11 July 1989

Leo Wright

How fortunate the Society has been to enjoy the talents of Philomena Kennedy in the first four Newsletters! That we know, but we had no idea of the varied riches of those talents until she invited us to her exhibition on June 1st.

This special evening invitation for friends was a memorable and delightful occasion. Outside: the first grey-sky evening for ages; inside: the glow of the paintings and drawings and of appreciation and wine.

Sold at once were the water-colour and ink pictures of Deal. Because of their local interest? Perhaps! But they were very striking. Little more than postcard-size, almost luminous in their colour, bold in outline, beckoning from their dark mounts. If art is *l'art de faire quelquechose de rien* these were art.

"A padded disc, on silk with trapunto, nylon lace and cotton embroidery" we were told. It was called "Earth", but, with its exquisite colours it had the wonder of the earth as the first astronauts may have felt it, or stout Cortez, when he gazed upon the Pacific.

One small room was allotted to the 54 exhibits, so that the variety of media and subjects was intense. The capturing of light and heat in Rhodes or Seville, with only white paper, ink and wash was arresting. "The Road to the Castle" - Dover Castle? Castles in Spain? No! Surely a fairy castle. Eclectic as well as versatile, surely there were shades of artists past? An echo of Blake in one Christmas card, an echo of Samuel Palmer in "Moonlit Orchard", of the drama of Turner in the acrylic of Lake Bala?

There were "ikons" and Crusaders and heraldic devices and there was charm: the "Hazel Mouse in Nest" and "Flowers in a Medieval Font at Boughton" - particularly the hand-coloured version. There were architectural drawings and details of architecture and sculpture. The texts and quotations all merited the loving care of their calligraphy. The Christmas cards would be a present in themselves.

Gifted, sensitive, charming, magical, mystical, even spiritual are all epithets evoked by this very personal exhibition.

1 and 6 June 1989