

DEATH OF PATRON OF ARTS

The founder of the North Taranaki Society of Arts and its president for 25 years, Mr Henry Maryon Bacon, died in New Plymouth early today. He was 86.

Born in Harold Wood, Essex, England, he came to New Zealand in 1913 after working for a number of years in the textile industry. He was a fabrics buyer.

Mr Bacon continued in a similar occupation in New Zealand, working in Wellington, Auckland and Dunedin before he married Miss Helen Janet Johnson in Hawera in 1918.

He moved to New Plymouth where he established a drapery business in Devon St. He retired about 10 years ago.

Mr Bacon's ideas for an arts society began when he was judging paintings at a Winter Show in New Plymouth. He thought the paintings were good but regretted the absence of an organisation to help the artists.

As the result of Mr Bacon's efforts the arts society was formed 34 years ago. The society held its first exhibition in a room above his shop in 1933.

He was patron of the Arts Society until recently, and a lover and collector of art for many years.

Mr Bacon was a prominent Rotarian for many years and served as both president and patron of the New Plymouth Philatelic Society.

Mr Bacon is survived by his wife.