

Museum to display carved bed

A bed with the head and foot covered in elaborate Maori carving is to be displayed at the Taranaki Museum next week.

The totara bed was carved in 1923 by the late Mr L. S. Mackie, a noted historian, naturalist and scholar of Maori life who lived at Otakeho.

The bed was insured for £500 in 1924 and shipped to England and displayed in the Wembley exhibition. It was given to the museum three years ago by Mr Mackie's wife, who is now living near Feilding.

Mr Mackie was particularly skilled in Maori carving and was noted for his great accuracy with detail, the museum director, Mr Rigby Allan, said today.

A "terrific" amount of work had gone into the bed carvings. Paua shell had been inlaid in the eyes of the figures.

Mr Allan said a display of 18th and 19th century silver and glassware had just been completed. The exhibits came from the museum's collection and most of them were on show for the first time. The pieces included recent acquisitions.

Because of popular demand, paintings of historic North Taranaki buildings by Thelma de Lancy Green had been hung again in the museum art gallery. This exhibition would be varied during the holidays to show all 48 paintings in the collection.



PART of the impressively carved bed which will be displayed at the Taranaki Museum next week.