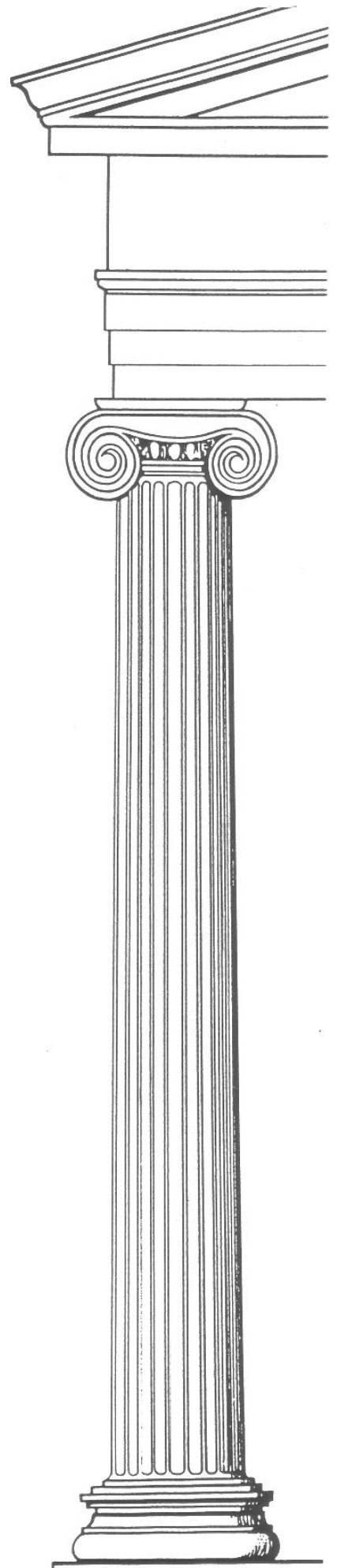


ADFAS

HISTORY

**ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIAN DECORATIVE
& FINE ARTS SOCIETIES INC.**

ABN 91 683 036 082



ASSOCIATION OF ADFAS

Patron

Mrs Patricia Robertson OAM

President

Mr Julian Bickersteth

Vice-Presidents

Mrs Marlena Jeffery

Mr Geoffrey Edwards

Honorary Member

Mr Edmund Capon AO OBE

Mrs Pauline Hopkins

Founder Chairman

Mrs Patricia Robertson OAM

NADFAS

Patron

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester

President

Mr Christopher Lloyd CVO

Founder Chairman

The late Mrs Patricia Fay OBE

BRIEF HISTORY OF NADFAS

The first Decorative & Fine Arts Society was the inspiration of Patricia Fay in 1965. The Chiltern Antiques Group, later to become the Chiltern Society, was formed to bring together people interested in the decorative and fine arts who wished to hear expert lecturers, to visit museums, galleries, houses and collections and to increase and broaden their knowledge. Patricia Fay received great help and encouragement in her work from Sir Trenchard Cox, then the Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum and subsequently the NADFAS President.

Such was its success that other societies followed and in 1968 the first eleven societies formed the National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies, holding the inaugural meeting at the Victoria and Albert Museum in the presence of HRH the Duchess of Kent who became the first Patron. NADFAS became a registered charity in 1972.

NADFAS expanded throughout the United Kingdom and in 1984 the first overseas society was formed in Rheindahlen, Germany, to be followed by the first Australian society in Sydney, in 1985. There are now NADFAS societies throughout mainland Europe, Australia and New Zealand. The Australian societies have Group Associate membership of NADFAS and are internally self-governing.

NADFAS societies not only grew in number but also in initiative. Throughout the 1970s great effort went into the formation of Church Recorders, Young NADFAS and NADFAS Volunteers. Overseas tours were arranged, closely followed by British tours and a national newsletter was produced. For all this inspiration and vision Patricia Fay received the OBE in 1975. She died in 1979 aged 46. A fund was set up in her name to provide income for special projects, and since 1980 The Patricia Fay Memorial Event has been held annually.

There are currently more than 360 societies with a total membership of more than 91,000.

Over the years NADFAS rented offices with several moves to larger premises as the organisation grew. The occasion of NADFAS's Silver Jubilee in 1993 was used to launch an appeal to raise funds to acquire a permanent home for the National Association and many Australian societies contributed to this fund. In 1994 NADFAS purchased 8 Guilford Street, London, now named NADFAS House.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ADFAS

The first Australian Decorative & Fine Arts Society was formed in Sydney by Mrs Patricia Robertson who was introduced to the educational and enjoyable aspects of NADFAS during a visit to the UK. With the encouragement of the NADFAS Chairman and approval and advice from the NADFAS Committee, ADFAS Sydney commenced lectures in March 1985. It was based on the same aims and objectives as NADFAS, as well as following the guidelines set down by this organisation.

By 1988 there were seven societies with Sydney having two sessions. The same year a National Executive was formed and in 1989 this was restyled as the Executive Committee of the **ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIAN DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETIES INC (Association of ADFAS)**.

By 1994 sixteen societies had been established throughout the eastern states of Australia and the Association became a **GROUP ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF NADFAS**. There are now 37 societies located from Hobart to Cairns, seven of which have two sessions.

NADFAS appoints an Overseas Area Representative who liaises with the ADFAS National Chairman and represents the Association at NADFAS Council Meetings. This change in relationship better reflects the reality of ADFAS as a national organisation without losing the many benefits NADFAS offers its members.

The ADFAS story is one of considered growth and generosity of spirit. From a simple beginning, with the enthusiasm, effort and vision of a small body of founder members and the continuing endeavour of all ADFAS members, the NADFAS objects have been given a distinctive Australian style while still retaining the high standards that are the reason for its success.

The Association is aware of the interest in the arts in Australia and is keen to encourage new member societies wherever possible. The difficulties created by the vast distances to be covered by visiting lecturers and the necessity of ensuring the viability of new societies are always matters to be considered. With enthusiasm and hard work ADFAS will continue to grow and prosper, providing members with opportunities to increase their knowledge and enjoyment of the decorative and fine arts, and encouraging them to support the preservation of our national artistic heritage.

Each ADFAS is an incorporated body and run on a voluntary basis by a Chairman and Committee within the constraints of the standard Constitution. It agrees to abide by the policies set down by the Council of the Association of ADFAS of which each Society's Chairman is a member.