

Grace's Gifts

The beautiful drawing room marquetry flooring from *Norwood*, which Professor Lewis chose for the proposed Architectural school, was formed in approximately 200 square blocks faced with ⅛-inch thick marquetry. They were removed and stored in the carpentry workshop at the back of the University grounds. Apparently it was decided not to use the flooring in the new building after all, and the panels were left in the carpenter's store room and it was later found that they were taken by all and sundry to be used for such things as side and coffee tables..

The Shakespearian windows were accepted by the Melbourne Grammar school to await the return of the headmaster. Unimpressed with them, he left them stored. The school bursar told Dr Robin Sharwood, the fourth warden of Trinity College, Melbourne, that they might be useful at the college. Eight of the panels were installed in the stairwells of Bishop House and Clarke House at the college; the remainder were placed in a box, which was subsequently stolen.

The gifts were a disaster. It would have been better if they had been sold at the auction and gone where they would have been valued. It was sheer coincidence which led to the discovery of the fate of the floor panels; however, the remnant windows are most appropriately housed at Trinity College. Subsequently, some items from *Norwood*, of display quality, have been given to the Geelong Gallery by the "Descendents of James and Amelia Riches".

Olinda

The Johnsons had valued Olinda since 1936 as their second home, spending most holidays and many weekends there; it was a gift from Walter to Grace. The acre of garden had been created by earlier owners, the McCutcheon family, and Grace devoted much time to developing it with the help of an excellent local gardener, George Gay, into a beautiful dry-stone, terraced garden. The property was on a steep hill; at the bottom of the hill was a cottage, *Terri Hi Hi*, which was accessible only via a steep narrow path with over 130 rough-hewn rock steps, which bordered the Johnsons' garden.

Terri Hi Hi was owned by Enid Hughes-Jones, the owner and matron of one of Melbourne's leading private hospitals, Windermere. Enid was a prominent supporter of the arts. On one occasion she entertained the visiting Convent Garden Russian Ballet at *Terri Hi Hi*. The troupe included Edouard Borovanski, later the 'father of Australian Ballet'. The Johnson children watched over the fence with fascination as some of the world's leading ballerinas negotiated the rough-hewn steps with much laughing and screaming.

In 1940, Enid Hughes-Jones purchased the property on the other side of the path, *Orchard House*. This gave her better access to *Terri Hi Hi*, enabling Enid to build a swimming pool into the hillside. She engaged her friend, the famous gardener Edna Walling, to design and build the pool with consulting engineer Clive Steel and Ellis Stone,