

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

# Art at Hadley's Orient Hotel

*Hadley's Orient Hotel*, which dates back to 1834, has a rich history interwoven with art, most notably landscape paintings. Appropriately, the *Hadley's Art Prize, Hobart* is once again establishing the hotel's strong artistic links and place in our cultural landscape.

One of the early landlords of this grand historic hotel – John Clay Hadley – was a passionate collector. His son, Howard Hadley, also collected art and was a landscape painter who won an Art Society of Tasmania prize for his scene of Mt Wellington from Risdon Road in 1895.

This period was a dynamic time for Tasmanian Art and by the 1920s and 30s *Hadley's Orient Hotel's* reputation as a cultural hub grew even more as it became a meeting place for the Art Society of Tasmania.

Throughout its early history, *Hadley's Orient Hotel* hosted a number of important art exhibitions, especially those featuring landscapes.

In 1931 James E. Flett held an exhibition of watercolors and linocut prints. In 1934 Jessie C.A. Traill had a showing of oil and watercolour paintings as well as etchings, including Tasmanian outdoor scenes and the Sydney Harbour Bridge under construction.

But it was the Hotel's first exhibition that holds greatest pride of place: In 1926 a watercolour collection by Tasmanian landscape painter, John Eldershaw, drew an enthusiastic crowd.

Some 90 years on, the *Hadley's Art Prize, Hobart* was born. To mark – and celebrate – the occasion *Hadley's Orient Hotel* has recently purchased an Eldershaw watercolour – 'Under a Hill' – to add to its permanent collection.



JOHN ELDERSHAW  
*Under a Hill* (c. 1925)



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