

4 LOAN REQUEST - JOHN DUNCAN PAINTINGS (AN 290-2002)

The McManus Galleries is lending two paintings by the celebrated Dundee artist, John Duncan, to the Cultural Centre based at the ancient Daoulas Abbey in Brittany, France. The centre has a track record of collaborating with the world's greatest museums. Its excellent security and air-conditioning systems make it unique in the whole of western France for the presentation of artworks. The works will be crated for transport which will be carried out by a leading firm, Oxford Exhibition Services. All associated costs will be borne by the borrower.

The works are "The Play Garden", c.1940, which is populated by numerous figures from children's books, fairy stories and nursery rhymes, and "Children of Lir", 1914, which illustrates an ancient Celtic legend in which the wicked stepmother turns her husband's children into white swans. They will be shown in a major new exhibition, "The Fairies", which runs from 7th December, 2002 until 2nd March, 2003.

Celtic traditions and culture, with close links to Wales, Ireland and Scotland, are very relevant to Brittany. Born in Dundee in 1866, Duncan was a leading figure in the "Celtic Revival" movement. His master work, "The Riders of the Sidhe", 1911, is on permanent display in the Victoria Gallery within the McManus. Shown in Japan two years ago, it was decided not to lend it for this exhibition but instead to allow it to be illustrated in the catalogue, which has a special feature on Duncan.

The Committee are asked to note accordingly.