

Right atmosphere for Hakewill exhibition

LIT BY CANDLES in elegant silver Victorian candlestick holders, the exhibition of James Hakewill's acquaintances of Jamaica 1820-21 opened at Hills Galleries on Wednesday.

It was as of the 19th century painter had ordained the temporary power failure himself so that the exquisite quality of his work should glow in history. Twenty-one of the artist's 200 pieces on Jamaica are now on show for one week.

Aquatint is a way of using a transparent type of water-colour and Chinese inks on drawings which have been etched on stone and then taken off.

The works of Hakewill, said Mr. Bernard Lewis, director of the Institute of Jamaica, on opening the show, are truly museum pieces. An English architect, Hakewill tends to reflect his profession clearly in some of his pictures of one year in Jamaica.

His work is extremely rare and none of the artist's actual sketches are in Jamaica. Mr. Lewis said he hoped to procure a complete set of Hakewill for the Institute. Some of the Hakewill prints owned by the Institute, he said have in-

creased in value 1,000 percent over the last ten years.

The set on show at the Hills Galleries was bought by Mr. Christopher Hills in Birmingham.

Mr. M. Matalon booked eight of the prints on the spot and several others bore the red seal of "sold" on them before the afternoon was over.

Each print is accompanied by a framed explanation and history of the scene. And in the book from which the

prints were framed there is the following dedication — "To the nobleman and Gentlemen Proprietors of Estates in the West Indies. To the resident gentlemen (from many of whom the author received much kindness) and to the merchants of the United Kingdom, connected with those valuable colonies; this picturesque tour of the Island of Jamaica is respectfully dedicated by their most obedient and very humble servant, James Hakewill."

Lit, if only for a time, by candlelight, the Jamaica of yesterday was present in the exhibition.

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