

ARTIST FAVOURS ABORIGINAL DESIGNS

A few years ago well-known Sydney artist, Byram Mansell, completely discarded his long practiced techniques and decided to follow the theme of aboriginal artistry.

This was undoubtedly a very wise decision for the artist, for his work has brought him fame in many parts of the world and his work today, whether on canvas, in tapestry, or in mosaic mural, is much sought after.

Perhaps the most important feature of Byram Mansell's success in this field is the fact that he has a genuine respect and affection for the aborigine and is always eager to improve his knowledge of the old aboriginal artists.

Last year the Commonwealth Bank of Australia commissioned Mr. Mansell to design a mural for its new premises at Taree. With some of the coloured clays dug in the local hills, he created a large ceramic mural depicting an aboriginal legend of Taree. It was indeed fitting that one of these Stone Age stories should be interpreted through pottery, that craft which is as old as the story of mankind.

The Aborigine story of Taree as portrayed by Byram Mansell's mural, worked in 1,863 mosaic tiles and 17 feet high by 25 feet long, to be fixed to the front of the new Commonwealth Bank, is still bringing Taree bountiful publicity.

Some time ago Mr. Mansell went to Taree so that he could study local conditions and undertook an extensive tour of the district to see the fig trees and get other local colour.



A huge Mansell mural laid out on the floor in preparation for erection.