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### Vale! Richard Stephens...

It is with sadness and shock that we mourn the sudden passing of the Chairman of the Board of the Abbey Museum, Emeritus Professor Richard R. Stephens, on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Richard has been involved with the Museum for nearly 20 years, first as President of the Friends of the Museum, and then for the last ten years as President of the Museum Association and Chairman of the Board. His contribution to the Abbey Museum is immense and we shall miss him, even though we are sure his spirit will float over the site of the future Art Gallery, something that he was passionately wanting to see happen. Richard worked tirelessly to publicise the Museum and was responsible for bringing many people into its orbit. In 1999 we were privileged to name the new Manuscript gallery after him, in small recognition of his enormous contribution. We shall not forget you, Richard.

**FRIENDS OF THE ABBEY MUSEUM (FOTAM)** – were mentioned in our previous Newsletter and this may well be a good time to explain more about the important part they play in their assistance to the Museum. Members are very much involved in the continuing growth and development of the Museum, and by their subscriptions and fund raising assist in the acquisition of new artefacts for the collection. Their support also permits us to upgrade our vital computer systems and other equipment as required. A number of concessions, including talks, outings, and free admission, come with membership as well as *Lindisfarne*, a witty and informative newsletter circulated free several times a year. Further details on membership may be obtained by telephoning (07) 5495 1652 or emailing [admin@abbeymuseum.asn.au](mailto:admin@abbeymuseum.asn.au).



The FOTAM Annual Dinner will be held at the Abbey Hall on October 9<sup>th</sup> 2004 and guests will be very welcome. The dinner will be followed by a talk entitled (as a working title): *Shakespeare: A Passionate Affair* by Richard Baberowski. Richard has had a life long love of Shakespeare and this should be an exciting evening. Phone the Museum for bookings.

### NEW EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS

It should be noted that Queensland Art Gallery are currently hosting an exciting exhibition called *'The Look of Faith'* and it includes a series of icons from the Abbey Museum of Art and Archaeology. These icons have been the on-going concern of John Hook, Senior Conservator, QAG, who has been carrying out a programme of conservation and restoration to restore the beauty of these wonderful pieces. Among them is an icon half finished through the conservation program to show the detail and work involved. It possibly dates from as early as the 15<sup>th</sup> century from Bulgaria. This work on the right features an exceptionally delicately painted *Madonna and Child*, on wood panel and is probably 15<sup>th</sup> century from north Italy.



The **Abbey Museum** is acknowledged as home to an important collection of medieval manuscripts. Fine examples of fragments from Books of Hours (horae) can be viewed in the **Manuscript Gallery** at the Museum, together with other splendid exhibits of the written word.

the Museum's connection with Tania Matthias and the School of Illumination & Calligraphy, a ten-lesson course already being projected for February 2005. In the meantime Tania may be contacted at 07 3849 4248 or email at [illuminationsbytania@hotmail.com](mailto:illuminationsbytania@hotmail.com)

