

**ART and ARTISTS... by PETER PEER****JOHANNESBURG TO  
AIM FOR TOP**

**A STRONG BID** to have Johannesburg made the art capital of South Africa is now under way. The move, which has taken official form, could have wide repercussions on the art life of South Africa.

The move was announced this week by Mr. Fernand Haenggi, chairman of the Southern Transvaal branch (Johannesburg) of the South African Association of Arts. It followed a meeting held by the branch at which it was decided to circularise all branches of the association of Johannesburg's intention to ask that the headquarters be moved here.

At present the headquarters are in Cape Town.

But the letter, according to Mr. Haenggi, set out a strong case for a headquarters switch to Johannesburg.

**MEMBERS**

Johannesburg, he said, was well on the way to achieving the largest number of members in the country (an intensive recruiting drive has already been launched). It is also South Africa's largest art exchange and market, and also the city with the biggest art potential.

Also, and perhaps the most important point, it is the city in

which there is the largest concentration of artists in the country.

All the association's regional branches, the Cape, Eastern Cape, Free State, South West Africa, Northern Transvaal and Natal, have been asked to give the matter their attention and to sound out opinion.

**OFFSHOOT**

Cape Town has been the association's headquarters since the movement started — as an offshoot of the Transvaal Art Society, which was based in Johannesburg.

The decision, said Mr. Haenggi, was taken at a full committee meeting in Johannesburg, and met with a great deal of enthusiasm.

Should the move come about, he added, steps would be taken to provide the association with a proper and well-run headquarters, probably in the centre of the city.