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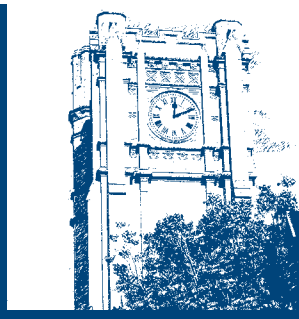
HERITAGE SOCIETY



Adventure on the menu at Heritage Society Lunch

High in a room overlooking Melbourne's beautiful heritage buildings, the University of Melbourne's 2008 Heritage Society Luncheon was held on Wednesday 19 November. If the stunning views didn't capture one's attention, guest speaker Louise Adler's amusing insights into the chaotic world of publishing certainly did.

NOTHING complements a delicious meal better than a side serve of adventure.

And thrilling tales of adventure were certainly on the menu at the 2008 Heritage Society luncheon, served up by guest speaker Louise Adler from Melbourne University Publishing.

More than 85 guests, including 60 Heritage Society members, students and University staff attended the annual luncheon at the Woodward Conference Centre on Wednesday 19 November. Hosted by Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Warren Bebbington and the University's Advancement team, the Heritage Society luncheon is held to thank and acknowledge those who have included the University in their will.

As guests enjoyed lunch over friendly conversation and beautiful Melbourne views, guest speaker Ms Adler invited them into the gruelling yet exciting world of publishing. Though many self-confessed bookworms were among the guests, few were aware of the nitty gritty details of the "fun, immensely challenging and risky" industry that helped keep their bookshelves full. Ms Adler's hilarious anecdotes illustrated the at-times "complex" relationship between the author and publisher. She drew upon a famous incident in 1912 involving publisher William Heinemann to highlight that this was one aspect of the industry that had never changed. "At the same time as Heinemann was making money out of (1890s writer) Hall Caine, he discovered then rejected an unknown writer called DH Lawrence," Ms Adler said. "Heinemann didn't like his first novel, *Paul Morel*, that Lawrence submitted in 1912 and so he wrote a fairly frank letter back to the young man." *Continued Pg 2>>*

Above: *Heritage Society Bequests Manager Sue Girling-Butcher, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Global Relations) Warren Bebbington, member Dr Des Bright and Melbourne University Publishing CEO Louise Adler at the 2008 Heritage Society Luncheon.*

HS member Dr Cecily Close chats with a student who has benefitted from a bequest.

Mr Max Smythe and University staff member Phoebe Bruce

A taste of adventure at 2008 Heritage Society Lunch

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Not taking the criticism well, Lawrence wrote back to the publisher following his rejection: *"Heinemann's name be used as a curse and eternal infamy. Curse the blasted, jelly boned swines, the slimy, the belly wriggling invertebrates, the miserable sodding rotters, the flaming sods, the snivelling, dithering palsied pulseless lot that make up England today. They've got white of egg in their veins ... God curse them, funkers. God blast them, wish wash. Exterminate the slime. They deserve it that every great man should drown himself."*

"So as you can see, the author-publisher relationship is complex," Ms Adler said.

Attendees received special souvenirs to remind them of the day - two *Little Books on Big Themes* published by MUP. Many were also pleased to take home memories of conversations with the students they had dined with.

A Heritage Society member said he appreciated the chance to speak with students who had benefited from bequests through scholarships and bursaries.

"I realise that creating the opportunity for donors and scholarship holders to meet was deliberate, but I was able to talk with three of them and I was impressed by the standard of intellect and sense of purpose displayed," he said.

The eight students who attended the lunch also appreciated the chance to meet Heritage Society members.

Student Astrid Engels enjoyed meeting a diverse group of people who shared memories of their university days. "It's nice to meet previous generations of students who can share their experiences," she said. "I feel humbled to lunch with people who have already gone through university…and are now giving back so a new generation of students can have a better experience."

"I feel humbled to have lunch with people who have already gone through university...and are now giving back so a new generation of students can have a better experience" - Student Astrid Engels

Above: *Melbourne University Publishing CEO and Publisher-in-chief Louise Adler shares stories of the chaotic world of publishing with Heritage Society members and guests.*

Members Miss Mary Lugton and Dr Des Bright share a joke.

Member Ms Claire Madigan

Heritage Society member Ms Alma Johnson

Dr Geoffrey Mottershead speaks with other guests.

Young scholars share stories of help giving hope

Students shared stories of personal struggle and adversity at September's Heritage Society Morning Tea, explaining how generous bequests had changed their lives through scholarships and bursaries.

Mr and Mrs Roy and June Hardcastle meet student Sophea Hay at the morning tea with students.

SOPHEA Hay was in her final year of high school when she received some shocking news that turned her world upside down.
Her mother – her best friend, nurturer and provider – had fallen gravely ill. Sophea was suddenly "yanked" into adulthood, forced to take on responsibilities well beyond her years for the sake of her family. "I never conceived that my life could change so profoundly overnight, or that I would too," she said at this year's Heritage Society Morning Tea with Students. Sophea, who is now studying dentistry at the University of Melbourne, was among five scholarship recipients to speak at a morning tea in the Leigh Scott Room of the Baillieu Library on Thursday 11 September.
Sophea told Heritage Society members that receiving the Mary Jane Lewis Scholarship had changed her life. University had previously seemed out of the question, as she would not have had the time to support herself and her family whilst studying.
"I cannot begin to express how this selfless act of charity has changed me," she said. "I have been blessed with financial security, independence and freedom which have allowed me to spend more time with my mother and on my studies."
Other student speakers included Al Fricker (Arts), Steven Kelly (Master of Social Health), Astrid Engels (Science) and Angelina Tabuteau Moore (PhD Medicine).

University Development General Manager Dr Ross Coller, student Al Fricker and Heritage Society member Mr Gary Israel.

Scholar Steven Kelly befriends HS member Ms Leonie Osowski over morning tea.

Seasons Greetings from Bequest Manager Sue Girling-Butcher

Dear Members

2008 has been an exciting year for the Heritage Society. Since its establishment in 2006, the number of Heritage Society members has increased from 136 to 207. Members responded positively to the 2008 program, with 15 -20 members and their guests attending each event. When I first started planning these events I remember the advice from more that one member who stated that "they shouldn't just be social functions" as they also wanted to learn something and I have tried to follow that advice.
This year our program included speakers on climate change, finding the Vivaldi manuscript, a private tour of the Special Collections held in the Baillieu Library and finally hearing from high-achieving students who have received scholarships made possible by the generosity of a bequest. The final event for 2008 was the annual HS lunch. It was a great success, with more than 85 guests attending. Several members had travelled from interstate to attend. I was delighted to catch up with so many members, including many who I hadn't met personally.
We are now planning the program of events for 2009. The full calendar of events for members and their guests in 2009 will be sent out in February.
As this is our last newsletter for 2008, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you well for the coming festive season and a happy and healthy 2009. I look forward to seeing you and your guests at our Heritage Society events next year.

Exploring the library's hidden treasures

UNBEKNOWNST to many who frequent its aisles, the Baillieu Library is more than a place to search for books or a quiet corner to study in peace.
If you look closer you'll find it is a treasure trove of cultural relics whispering stories of days gone by. Few are fortunate enough to discover its private rooms, usually closed to the public, where precious collections of rare books and historic prints are carefully preserved.
But Heritage Society members were given the chance to explore these hidden treasures at a special cultural collections tour on Wednesday 23 July.

The Print Room

Members who attended were invited behind closed doors to experience a presentation of rare prints showcasing the works of world renowned artists, including Rembrandt van Rijn, Francisco de Goya and Albrecht Dürer. Print Officer Kerrianne Stone said she had chosen to display the works of these three artists because they

Above: Mr John Humphrey inspects a rare and intricate artwork in the Print Room.

Above: Director, Collections Mr Jock Murphy presents a selection of historic books in the Rare Books Library.

were "masters of printmaking, in both technical and visual style". "We have an array of prints that make many connections and tell stories about the artists and the times they were living in," she said. Guests were given the chance to closely inspect the detailed works of art, depicting biblical subjects, landscapes and portraits.

Rare Books Library

The walls of the dimly lit rare book library were lined from floor to ceiling with historic books encapsulating every topic imaginable. The library's Director, Collections Jock Murphy said the range of rare materials showed the way books had evolved over the years. "Often the story of how individual books ended up here is quite exciting; these are stories of remarkable survival and generosity," he said. Mr Murphy presented a range of historic texts spanning many eras and cultures, including a book detailed in ancient Ethiopian script. Another book titled "A catalogue of the different specimens of cloth collected in the three voyages of Captain Cook, to the southern hemisphere…" (Printed in London, 1787, for Alexander Shaw) featured examples of cloth collected by Captain James Cook on his third voyage of discovery around the Pacific. Many of the books were donated to the library by generous benefactors, including a large collection on Cambridge University and a valuable volume of English zoologist John Gould's famous Birds of Australia book, the first comprehensive survey of Australian birds.

WHAT'S ON

Heritage Society Events

You may wish to pencil the following Heritage Society events into your diary for 2009. You will receive a full calendar of next year's events in February.

Garden Tour and Morning Tea at University's Burnley Gardens and Campus, Wed 4 March

Heritage Society members are invited to a special tour of the picturesque Burnley Gardens. The tour will feature a discussion on a wide variety of native Australian plants, including a number of Heritage listed trees. Please RSVP to Julie Owens on +61 3 8344 1761 or Sue Girling-Butcher on +61 3 8344 1056 by 23 February.

Presentation by Dr Jennifer Kloester - PhD graduate and published expert on the life and works of Georgette Heyer, Wed 3 June

Dr Jennifer Kloester is a graduate in History and Literature, and the foremost expert on best-selling writer, Georgette Heyer. She is the author of Georgette Heyer's Regency World, and a sought-after speaker on Heyer, historical fiction, and the Regency. Please RSVP to the contacts listed above by 25 May.

Contact us

We welcome your comments on Heritage Society activities and suggestions for future events. Please let us know if your contact details change, so we can continue to update you on the latest Heritage Society news and events.

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