Friends of the Baillieu Library:

A list of books presented to the University of Melbourne 1988–1998

A supplement to the list of books presented to
the University of Melbourne 1966–1987

To celebrate the 21st anniversary of the Friends of the Baillieu Library in 1987, a booklet listing the first 220 donations was published. During the following decade, 1988–1998, a further 34 books have been given by the Friends. The smaller number resulted from a conscious effort to concentrate on major purchases rather than, as sometimes in the past, a larger number of minor purchases, which are more adequately catered for through the main budget. It also reflects the smaller number of financial members of the Friends following the decision not to give automatic borrowing rights as part of membership privileges. A history of the purchasing program year for year is now given, followed by a listing of the books in the categories used in the original booklet, numbered 221 onwards.

The major purchase of 1987 was Pierre Bulliard Herbier de la France in 5 volumes. This purchase far exceeded the funds available to the Friends. Money was borrowed from the University and gradually paid off. Bulliard therefore features as a major purchase in Annual Reports for a number of years.

The arrangement of paying off this purchase gradually to the University allowed a continuous purchasing program to take place. In 1988, the generosity of the University in underwriting this obligation allowed the Friends to buy 2 significant works. Thomas Sprat’s History of the Royal Society, London, 1667, filled a gap in the Library’s holdings of Royal Society publications, while D’Entrecasteaux’s Voyage de D’Entrecasteaux envoyé à la recherche de la Pérouse, Paris, 1808, strengthens the Library’s holdings of French accounts of exploration. A small number of prospectuses from the Golden Cockerel Press were also acquired, adding to the Library’s already impressive collection of ephemera from that press.

During 1989 the Friends consolidated their position without making any significant acquisitions. The $10,000 still owing to the University Library for the Herbier de la France was paid, and the Friends went into 1990 with a healthy credit balance.

The most significant purchases during 1990 were three works presented to the Library by the Friends in memory of the late Chancellor Professor Sir Roy Douglas Wright:

An Extract of a Printed Letter, Addressed to the Publisher by Jean Denis Touching the Differences Risen about the Transfusion of Blood. London, 1668; Experimental and Practical Researches on Inflammation and on the Origin and Nature of Tubercules of the Lungs. By William Addison. Bound with his The Actual Process of Nutrition in the Living Structure Demonstrated by the Microscope and his The Actual Process of Nutrition and Inflammation in the Living Structure. London, 1843–45; and thirdly, A series of engravings, accompanied with explanations by Matthew Baillie, which are intended to illustrate the morbid anatomy of some of the most important parts of the human body. London, 1799–1800, the subject of an article by Professor Harold Attwood in a previous issue of the Library Journal.


As well as the *Lambeth Apocalypse* noted in the 1990 review, the Friends committed themselves to two exceptional purchases during 1991: Adolphe Alphand’s *Les promenades de Paris* (1867–73) provides an extraordinary record of Haussman’s and Napoleon III’s vision of Paris. Of immense value to French and urban historians generally, it has special relevance to students of the history of Melbourne, the development of which was heavily and consciously influenced by Haussman’s Paris.

*Das Gebetbuch Lorenzos de Medici* 1485. Handschrift Clm 23639 der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek, München. Frankfurt, S. Fischer Verlag, 1992 added another jewel to the Library’s exceptional collection of manuscripts in facsimile, while providing in its exquisite illustrations a window on the Italy of the Medici.

The high point of 1992 was the acquisition of a relatively insignificant-looking book. Cranmer Byng’s *Tomorrow’s Star.* This was the only one of 214 Golden Cockerel Press books produced between 1921 and 1976 not already held by the Library. When it was finally acquired, the Friends’ long standing commitment to complete the Library’s holdings of Golden Cockerel Press books was finally achieved. Another notable acquisitions made the Friends’ 25th anniversary year a happy one. Alphonse Dézallier d’Argenville’s *Theorie et la pratique du jardinage* (1709), continued the Friends’ well established support of 18th century French books, especially ones of landscape and botanical interest.

In 1993 the Friends agreed to purchase a splendid 10-volume work on archaeology especially recommended by Professor Frank Sear, Professor of Classical Studies, whose talk at the 1992 Annual Dinner will be remembered by many members. It is *Pompeii: pitteure e mosaici,* published under the direction of Professor Giovanni Pugliese Carratelli, by Treccani, Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana, Rome.

Two major acquisitions were made during 1994: The Hydrographical atlas of the first voyage of Dumont d’Urville (in the Astrolabe (Paris, 1833) and the facsimile of the medieval manuscript *Les très belles heures de Notre Dame.* However, in order to consolidate the funds, the Friends made no purchases during 1995.

In 1996 the Friends made one major purchase to mark the retirement of Mr Rodney Davidson as President of the Friends, a position which he had held for 18 years. The book, which was purchased on the recommendation of the then Curator of Australiana, Miss Margaret Murphy, and Mr Rodney Davidson is: *A Second Voyage Round the World* (1776). This work is commonly known as the “Cambridge Cook” because of the widely held view that the anonymous author was a Cambridge University student. It appears to be a surreptitious account of Cook’s second voyage from the journal of one of the officers, published anonymously, a year before the official account. This purchase was particularly pleasing since it was the only significant contemporary work on James Cook’s voyages not held in our Australia Collection, and was on the Library’s list of “most wanted” items for this collection. The addition of this book adds greatly to the research value of the collections of Cook and of Voyages within the library. The purchase price was to be funded partly by the Friends’ funds and partly through a fundraising effort since it was well beyond the means of the Friends. The University Librarian generously agreed to cover the balance through Library Funds.
In 1997 The Morgan Crusader Bible: The Picture Bible of Saint Louis from Faksimile Verlag Luzern became the major purchase of the year for the Friends. This superb facsimile of a medieval manuscript was produced as a close copy of the original manuscript in a limited edition of 980 copies only.


The Friends Committee has recently decided to try to complete the Kelmscott Press holdings as one of its priorities, as 44 out of 54 possible titles are now held. Other future purchases are intended to take place within the fields of Australian and 17th Century Royal Society of London Publications.

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List of works purchased in the decade 1988–1998

(The numbers follow on from the 220 items listed in the 1966–1987 bibliography)

ARCHITECTURE & LANDSCAPE GARDENING


ART OF THE BOOK

- Golden Cockerel Press


- Kelmscott Press

BOTANICAL SCIENCES


EUROPEAN HISTORY


MANUSCRIPTS (facsimiles)


MEDICAL HISTORY


PHYSICAL SCIENCES

238. An Account of a Controversy betwixt Stephano de Angelis, and John Baptista Riccioli, Concerning the Motion of the Earth. An Enlargement of the Observations ... Imparted by a Curious Traveller to Jamaica ... An Extract of a Printed Letter ... Touching a Late Difference, Risen at Paris, About the Transfusion of Blood. An Account of two books ... [London]: in the Savoy, printed by T. N. for John Martyn ..., 1668. (Presented 1989)


VOYAGES & TRAVELS


Merete Smith
Curator of Rare Books
and Executive Secretary of the Friends of the Baillieu Library

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