The Tieg Museum, Department of Zoology

Student/Volunteer Position Guide

Position Title: Collections Management – Research project, Georgina Sweet

Supervisor: Associate Professor David Young – Director, Tieg Museum
Helen Arnoldi, Cultural Collections Projects Coordinator

Position Goal: This research project will explore the contribution made by Associate Professor of Zoology, Georgina Sweet (1875-1946) and her father George Sweet (1844-1920), to the Tieg Museum in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. During her professional life Sweet and her father added to the collections of the Museum, and the primary focus of this project will be to trace those items in the collection that relate to the them in order to better understand their role in the development of the Tieg Museum. The research generated will be incorporated into the museum’s catalogue and may also be utilised on the museum’s website. This research will increase our understanding and appreciation of the specimens and artefacts in the Tieg Museum and provide a broader context in which to view the collection.

Background: Georgina Sweet (1875-1946) was Associate Professor of Zoology, University of Melbourne 1920-24. She was also a member of the University Council and sometime Lecturer and Acting Professor of Zoology. Her research interests included the zoology of Australian native animals and the parasites infesting Australian stock and native fauna. Her father George Sweet, was a fellow of the Geological Society, and amateur geologist, who assembled an extensive fossil collection, now housed in Museum of Victoria, he was also president of the Royal Society of Victoria (1905). Between them they acquired many specimens for the museum’s collections.

Responsibilities: In consultation with the Director, the student/volunteer will explore the collections of the Tieg Museum paying particularly attention to those specimens that were acquired for the museum by Georgina Sweet and her father, George Sweet. Using the Tieg Museum register as a starting point, (which lists many entries by Georgina and her father), the student will then link these collection management records to specimens, many of which are still found in the museum’s displays today. It will also be necessary to explore the University Archives to see if there is further information about the acquisitions made for the Zoology collection by Sweet and her father during this time. Any information generated will enhance our understanding of this collection and the role that this influential Professor played in the formation of the collections associated with the museum.

Qualifications: The Research Assistant will need to have sound research skills and be competent in use of the library and its catalogues.
Familiarity with the correct procedures for the safe handling of museum objects is necessary as this position will require the close inspection of specimens and artefacts within the Museum.

Good communication skills are needed including research writing and interactions with research contacts. Ability to work independently on research leads.

A methodical, prudent approach and a keen eye for detail.

An interest in zoology and the history of the University would be beneficial.

**Training and Supervision:**

On-the-job training specific to the task of Research Assistant will be provided.

Ongoing guidance from the Director, Tiggs Museums and the Cultural Collection Projects Program Coordinator on the direction of the project.

**Benefits:**

Opportunity to work at close hand with one of the University of Melbourne’s extensive cultural collections.

Professional development through independent and original research.

The satisfaction in focusing on a specific area of the Tiggs Museum’s collections and contributing to the interpretation of these objects, which in turn will make this collection more accessible to a broader audience.

For more information on this position please contact:

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