Collections news from across the University

Diary 2009

Last year the University's Marketing and Communications Division produced a beautiful 2008 appointment diary featuring images from the University's cultural collections. The diary was a great success and a 2009 diary is in preparation. It will be available later in the year from the Melbourne University Bookshop on the ground floor of the Baillieu Library building, the Union Shop in the Student Union Building and Readings bookshop in Lygon Street.

Write of fancy: The Golden Cockerel Press

The exhibition *Write of fancy* will explore the hearts and minds of the inventors, writers and artists of this British press which operated between 1920 and 1960. It will showcase examples from the Baillieu Library's exceptional collection of Golden Cockerel books, comprising the gifts of various individual donors and the Friends of the Baillieu Library. Examples include Eric Gill and Robert Gibbings' collaboration on *The four Gospels* (1931), John Buckland Wright's illustration of *Endymion* (1947), and maritime history books. Golden Cockerel books achieved a visual harmony between content, typography and illustration. The exhibition is a chance to discover how this private press from its inception was a flight of fancy, and how through its words and images it became a 'write of fancy'. Ground floor, Baillieu Library, 17 August to 26 September 2008 (check http://www.unimelb.edu.au/culturalcollections/exhibitions for updates).

Malcolm Fraser Collection

Recent additions to the Malcolm Fraser Collection include the papers of Mr Fraser's mother, Una Fraser (née Woolf). These include works by photographers Ruth Hollick and Bernice Agar; newspaper cuttings relating to Malcolm Fraser's early political career; and correspondence between Una Fraser and figures from the Australian art world such as Professor Sir Joseph Burke and Sir Daryl Lindsay.

Material relating to Mr Fraser's activities with the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons in South Africa is on display at the Australian Prime Ministers Centre in Old Parliament House, Canberra. Photographs of Tamie Fraser were included in the exhibition *Mrs Prime Minister: Public image, private lives*, held at Old Parliament House from 19 March to 29 June 2008.

A selection of photographs—including early family photographs and photographs relating to the royal visit of 1981 and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting of the same year—is now available on UMAIC, the University of Melbourne Archives Image Catalogue, http://buffy.lib.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/mua-search

Modern times

Three of the University's collections are lending items to the exhibition *Modern times: The untold story of modernism in Australia*, being organised by the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney. The Grainger Museum has contributed ten items including a selection of Grainger's towelling clothes, some of his Free Music machine watercolour designs and pieces from the Ludwig Hirschfeld Mack collection of instruments. The Ian Potter Museum of Art is lending some artworks and the University of Melbourne Archives is lending an exhibition poster designed by Hirschfeld Mack in 1962. Such loan requests demonstrate the national significance of the University's cultural assets.

Modern Times national tour dates are: Powerhouse Museum, Sydney:

8 August 2008 to 15 February 2009; Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne: 23 February to 12 July 2009; State Library of Queensland, Brisbane: 31 July to 25 October 2009.

Rare music to be catalogued

The Louise Hanson-Dyer Music Library, located in the Baillieu Library building, has received a substantial grant from the Louise B.M. Hanson-Dyer & J.B. Hanson Bequest. The $138,000 provided will fund cataloguing of the music library's rare collections, to be completed over the next two years. These collections are rich in material associated with the development of western art music in Victoria. Rare recordings of Aboriginal music, manuscripts of 19th-century operas performed in Melbourne and patriotic sheet music are a few of the kinds of material that will be more accessible to researchers as a result of this generous support. Collections to be catalogued include the historical orchestral collection; Australian sheet music; newspaper clippings 1895–1945; Stockigt clarinet music collection; White clarinet music collection; organ music; Michael Tippett archive; Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB) archive; musical instruments, photographs and furniture; and 78rpm records.

In this, the 100th year of the University's music library, it is timely that the cultural riches here will be made available to researchers, students and anyone with music-related interests.

Physics display upgrade

The appearance of the Physics Museum has changed greatly over the past year or so. Thanks to a 2007 cultural collections grant funded from the University Annual Appeal and the Cultural and Community Relations Advisory Group, new, high-quality museum-standard display cases have been purchased. These show off the remarkable artefacts to their best advantage, as well as protecting them from dust and damage. Interpretation of the collection has been expanded thanks to graphic design work funded by an earlier grant in 2006, undertaken by Elaine Hogarty of Origin Design, followed more recently by the work of RMIT Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering student, Thomas Ryan. Thomas' project, part of the University of Melbourne Cultural Collections Student Projects Program, involved researching, writing and producing new labels and explanatory texts for the objects on display. Physics is a specialised subject but the new interpretation makes the collection easily understood by all visitors.

Rare French volumes acquired by Baillieu Library

An extremely rare French two-volume work was purchased by the Baillieu Library in March, with funds from the Pitt Bequest. The *Ordonnances consulaires pour les echelles du Levant et de Barbarie, couvrant la période 1681–1854* includes otherwise inaccessible material on the French Revolution's impact upon the Muslim world, showing how revolutionary policy was translated outside Europe to the communities of Istanbul, Smyrna, Aleppo and elsewhere. In addition, it contains a great deal of important material on trade and military matters, which can help to illuminate the transformation of world trade at the end of the 18th century and the move toward European military hegemony during this period.

Cambridge collected: The Pierre Gorman story

The collection of books and prints at the University of Melbourne relating to the town and the university of Cambridge comprises nearly 3,000

The new display in the foyer of the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne.

items, dating from 1658 to the present day. The core of the collection was donated by Dr Pierre Gorman (1924–2006), a University of Melbourne alumnus who subsequently became the first deaf person to take out a PhD from Cambridge University. Gorman had a long and distinguished career in England and Australia as an educator of the deaf and was a tireless advocate against discrimination towards people with disabilities. For his services to the University of Melbourne he was awarded an LLD *honoris causa* in 2000. This exhibition, held in the Baillieu Library from 20 March to 30 May 2008, was a fitting tribute to this remarkable man, and also launched an updated printed catalogue of the collection.

Archives review

Throughout 2008 the University of Melbourne Archives is undertaking a major review of its holdings. This has required a temporary reduction in reference service hours and freeze on accessioning, in order to achieve a comprehensive reappraisal of collections, possible de-accessioning, and the disposition of University records which were accepted prior to sentencing regimes. At the same time, UMA is designing and implementing an integrated archival management and access system, and converting the current cataloguing accession-based system to the Series System.

For more news on the University of Melbourne Archives, check the *UMA Bulletin*, published twice yearly and available online at http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/archives/publications/bulletin

W.J. Howship project nominated for award

This collaboration between the University of Melbourne Archives (UMA) and the Benalla and District Family History Group (B&DFHG) has been nominated for the 2008 Victorian Museums Awards. The project made the collection of 1,250 historic dry plate negatives, created by Benalla photographer William Howship between 1904 and 1931, accessible to the wider community. The images include views of Benalla and surrounding districts, local events such as floods, concerts and military ceremonies, and portraits. The B&DFHG raised funds for collection re-housing, listing and digitisation and to run a community-based project to help identify many of the images. UMA brought its professional expertise to manage these fragile items and provide online access.

New display area for the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum

The Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum has a new, additional display area on the ground floor of the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne. The installation takes advantage of previously unused space in the ground floor stairwell of 720 Swanston Street. The display has been funded by the School of Dental Science with additional generous support from the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne Auxiliary. The cooperation of the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne, the owner of the building, was vital in developing the project. The space will be used for short-term exhibitions which engage hospital visitors in an area of dental history.

Books of royal provenance

Cataloguing of rare books has brought to light some intriguing volumes, including books with British royal connections.

A book once belonging to His Royal Highness, Prince William Henry, Duke of Clarence (later King William IV of Great Britain and Ireland and of Hanover 1830–1837), was recently catalogued in the Medical Rare Books Collection

Jacobus Peeters, *Constantinopelen*, Antwerp: I. Peeters ex op. De Scon. Mert. Ant., 1685. The Ronald and Pamela Walker Collection of Maps of Asia Minor, University of Melbourne, donated under the Commonwealth Government Cultural Gifts Program, 2008.

(currently being relocated to Special Collections in the Baillieu Library): Robert Robertson, *An essay on fevers,* (London: Printed for the author, and sold by G.G.J. and J. Robinson, 1790). The book, bound in gilt-ruled red morocco leather with elaborately tooled spine and gilt edges, bears a royal armorial bookplate with the initials 'WH' and motto *'Honi soit qui mal y pense'*, and has been inscribed 'Most respectfully presented by the author to His Royal Highness, Prince William Henry, Duke of Clarence'.

A book recently catalogued in the English Room in the Baillieu Library belonged to George, the Prince of Wales (1738–1820), who became King George III in 1760. Often referred to as 'Mad King George', from 1801 his son was obliged to act as Regent due to George's mental illness. This copy of Thomas Comber's *Short discourses upon the whole common-prayer* (London: Printed by Samuel Roycroft for Robert Clavell, 1684) bears the royal armorial bookplate of 'His Royal Highness George Prince of Wales' and the bookplates of two other owners: one Katherine Edwards, dated 14 May 1700, and Dr J. Orde Poynton. The latter donated this volume to the University as part of his very substantial gift of rare books and prints.

Gift of maps of Constantinople

The Rare and Historic Maps collection has benefitted from a second gift under the Cultural Gifts Program from Ronald and Pamela Walker of Canberra. Earlier this year Mr and Mrs Walker donated more than 40 maps of Constantinople (present day Istanbul) dating mostly from the 16th to the 18th centuries, created by renowned cartographers of the day. These complement 136 maps in the Ronald and Pamela Walker Collection of Maps of Asia Minor, which were donated in 1994 and have been photographed for viewing online at http://tinyurl.com.au/x.php?uqu

Annual appeal

The University Fund Annual Appeal is a valuable source of support for the cultural collections. Money allocated by donors to the option 'Library and cultural collections'—complemented in 2007 by funds from the University's Cultural and Community Relations Advisory Group—has made possible a wide range of projects. Among the most recently completed are: better housing for the A.G.M. Michell Engineering Collection, Morgan Children's Book Collection, Baillieu Library Print Collection and East Asian rare materials; preservation of early manuscripts, early concert programs and orchestral scores in the Louise Hanson-Dyer Music Library; conservation of photographs, documents, booklets and makers' catalogues from the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum and upgrade of the Museum's database; protection and cleaning of the Faculty of Music's two Gamelan orchestras and improved storage for historic woodwind and stringed instruments; digitisation and cold storage of cellulose acetate and nitrate negatives; digital imaging of items in the Medical History Museum; and new showcases for the Physics Museum, mentioned earlier. Funds raised in the 2007 appeal are currently being allocated; for further news see the next issue of *University of Melbourne Collections*. The 2008 appeal is under way; if you would like to contribute please visit http://www.unimelb.edu.au/alumni/giving/unifund.html or contact the Advancement Office on (03) 8344 1751.