Three exhibitions were held in the Baillieu Library in 2005. Peregrinations in Asia Minor: European description and cartography in the 16th and 17th centuries was held from 7 February to 1 April. It featured items from the University of Melbourne Library’s Map Collection and Special Collections. The sheet maps in the exhibition were drawn from the Ronald and Pamela Walker Collection of maps of Asia Minor, donated by that couple in 1991. The exhibition was held to coincide with the Australian Map Circle conference in February.

Following in April was Recent Acquisitions: an exhibition of new material in Special Collections, the Grainger Collection and the University Archives, highlighting recent purchases and donations in three of the University of Melbourne’s important collections. While eclectic, the material displayed had an Australian focus. From Special Collections were original manuscripts by the Australian author Arthur Upfield, as well as novels by notable Australian writers of adventure and mystery of the late 19th and early 20th century, such as Fergus Hume and Guy Boothby. Private Press books published in 1920s Sydney and more recent artists’ books created by Melbourne artists were also featured, as were early comic books and magazines, works of poetry and many other items.

Artworks by the South Australian-born print maker, painter and author, Mortimer Menpes (1855–1938), whom Percy Grainger knew, were included from the Grainger Collection.

The former Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. John Malcolm Fraser AC CH, donated his personal papers and photographs to the University Archives early in the year. Items included in the exhibition ranged from official and unofficial photograph albums of Fraser’s visits with politicians and royalty as well as family holidays, photographs at his Western District property, Nareen and study notes from his time at Oxford University.

The exhibition Kelmscott: a medieval adventure in the age of the machine began in early June and featured many beautiful items from the Special Collections’ Kelmscott Collection. At that time, the Baillieu Library held a near complete set of publications from William Morris’ Kelmscott Press, and with the generous loan from the State Library of Victoria of the most famous of Kelmscott’s books, The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer, the exhibition was able to bring together all of the Kelmscott publications — an uncommon event. Several months later the Library itself purchased this very rare edition and the ‘medieval adventure’ exhibition continued until the end of the year, with slight changes in content and a second edition catalogue. In November the University Library’s own Chaucer was proudly added to the exhibition and its acquisition celebrated at a special event.

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