

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

LIMITED EDITION PUBLICATIONS OF THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA

RECENTLY THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE LIBRARY acquired a complete collection of the fine limited edition publications of the Book Club of California, from the beginnings of the club in 1914 to 1998. The collection consists of 209 individually finely printed, limited editions and a complete collection of the printed ephemera of the club. There is also a complete collection of the important *Quarterly Newsletter*, from 1933 to 1998. Other highlights of the collection include a number of “leaf books”. These are books which contain one original leaf from a book of particular historical significance, such as for instance the King James Bible, 1611.

The Book Club of California may well be the world’s longest running venture of its kind, and very few complete sets of its publications are in existence. The club was founded in 1912 as a non-profit organisation of book lovers and collectors

with a special interest in Pacific coast history, literature and fine printing. In 1933, the club began publishing its *Quarterly Newsletter* and an annual printed keepsake series. Both of these are still being published annually. The texts of the annual keepsakes are written by authorities on their diverse subjects and are printed by leading fine American presses, such as the Grabhorn Press.

The Book Club of California Collection will be an important research tool for the history of Californian history, art and book production, as well as for the history of Western literature and book art in general. This collection supplements and broadens the University Library’s world class collection of British private press books, which includes publications of the Kelmscott Press and Golden Cockerel Press.

JOHN ELLIS PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

THIS NEW ADDITION TO THE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES documents the peace, anti-nuclear and progressive movements from 1971 to 1996, principally in Melbourne, but also in other parts of Australia and overseas.

The John Ellis Photograph Collection was “handed over” to the Archives by its creator, John Ellis, at a celebration in the University Library’s Leigh Scott Room on 20 October 1999. At the celebration, Professor Stuart Macintyre, Dean, Faculty of Arts, said,

In these many striking images of activism and activists, there is an extraordinary record of radical life in this city. We often have ideas, but John has sustained his over 30 years.

The collection includes, along with more than 12,000 black and white and colour photographs, the negatives, contact prints and an excellent database index. John Ellis has also generously passed the copyright to the University Archives. This is an outstanding addition to the University’s collections, and will be an invaluable resource for the researchers of Victorian and Australian history and politics.



Photos from the John Ellis Collection.