Recent Acquisitions

BY IAN MORRISON

Featured here is a selection of recent additions to the Special Collections at the University of Melbourne Library

The Joyce Thorpe Nicholson Collection

Joyce Thorpe Nicholson donated her collection of some 5000 books by and about Australian women to the University of Melbourne in 2001. The collection is especially rich in early editions of Australian literary works and in ephemeral material relating to the condition of women in Australian society.

Kay Grant (verse) and Anne Drew (illustrations), three books — It’s ‘ard to Keep Straight in the City, It’s ‘ard to Stay Clean in the Country, It’s ‘ard to be Good in the Blackout (pictured), Sydney, Angus and Robertson, 1943, front covers. These three small books of illustrated poems were published during World War 2, “for the troops”.

The Life, Adventures and Confessions of a Sydney Barmaid, Sydney, E.T. Radcliffe, c. 1891, front cover. The illustration is captioned, “The poor Barmaid having a little bit of supper after her hard day’s work”.

Early Printed Books


Ian Morrison is the Curator, Special Collections, University of Melbourne Library

Australiana

W. T. Moncrieff (1794–1857), Van Diemen’s Land: an operatic drama in three acts: printed from the acted copy, with remarks, to which are added, a description of the costume, cast of characters, entrances and exits, relative positions of the performers on the stage, and the whole of the stage business, London, Thomas Richardson, (1831), frontispiece with illustration (engraving by Mr Hughes from a drawing by Mr Seymour).
Imaginary Voyages

Robert Paltock (1697–1767), The Life and Adventures of Peter Wilkins, a Cornish Man Relating Particularly his Shipwreck Near the South Pole: his wonderful passage through a subterranean cavern into a kind of new world: his three meetings with a gawrey or flying woman, whose life he preserved and afterwards married her: his extraordinary conveyance to the country of Glausns and Gavreys, or men and women that fly,

London, George Routledge, c. 1880s, front cover. This is a late 19th century paperback edition of an imaginary voyage first published in 1751.

The Life, and Wonderful Adventures of Henry Lanson, Who Was Left on Shore on an Uninhabited Island: his mode of life, and discovery of the ruins of an ancient temple, and an oracle of the sun made of pure gold: the manner he converted the natives of a neighbouring island to Christianity, with whom he lived several years: with the destruction of the idol and his departure for England.

London, Dean and Munday, 1801, frontispiece and title page. The illustration is captioned, "The Captain & Crew murdering Lansons Slaves previous to leaving him on an uninhabited island".

T.G. Vallance Collection

The collection of Tom Vallance, late Professor of Geology at the University of Sydney, was acquired by the University of Melbourne in the late 1990s. The collection is exceptionally rich in earth sciences material, ranging from the 17th century to the 20th century. It also contains many items of general interest for Australian and European history.

Thomas Burnet (1635–1715), The Theory of the Earth: containing an account of the original of the Earth, and of all the general changes which it hath already undergone, or is to undergo till the consummation of all things, the first two books concerning the Deluge and concerning Paradise, 2nd edition. London, Printed by R. Norton, for Walter Kettilby, 1691, frontispiece with illustration and title page.