

2004 Baillieu Library Exhibition Program



A diverse and interesting series of exhibitions was staged this year in the Baillieu Library. The year began with a volcanic display, *Burning Clouds and Leaping Glaciers*, drawn from the Earth Sciences collections as well as Special Collections. Accounts and images of volcanoes, erupting and otherwise, featured. At left is an image of the Aeolian island of Stromboli, in George Russell, *A Tour through Sicily, in the Year 1815*, London, Sherwood, Neely and Jones, 1819.

Performing Revolution: France 1789–1945 followed in June and July. It displayed material from Special Collections, in particular from the Robert Brécy Collection, and coincided with the XIVth George Rudé Seminar held at the University, which biannually brings together leading scholars of French history from around the world. The curators chose items which depicted the theme of revolution as performance. The image (far left) featured as the exhibition catalogue cover and is ‘Agar, de la Comédie Française, chantant la Marseillaise (1870) (Agar, of the Comédie Française, singing the Marseillaise), an engraving in Louis Fiaux, *La Marseillaise: son histoire dans l’histoire des Français depuis 1792*, Paris, Charpentier et Fasquelle, 1918.



The third exhibition again coincided with an event, this time the Once and Future Medievalism conference held by the University’s Department of English in September. Titled *Mad Monks, Sham Ruins and Damsels in Distress: aspects of medievalism from the University of Melbourne collections*, the exhibition ran from August to October. Its eclectic contributions from Special Collections and the Grainger Museum examined the influence of medievalism on architecture, 19th century Romantic literature and Gothic fiction. Shown here (left) is the image ‘Three angels bear the holy Grail’, illustrated by Florence Harrison, in Alfred Tennyson, *Guinevere and Other Poems*, London, Blackie and Son, 1912.



To end the year we commemorated the 150th anniversary of the Eureka Rebellion, drawing from a diverse range of items in Special Collections and the University of Melbourne Archives. *Rush to Rebellion: Victorian Gold Rushes 1851–1854* was on display from November to early December, and chronicled the events from pre-gold rush Victoria through to the experiences of the ‘diggers’ and the eventual Rebellion and its aftermath. Left is a reproduction of ‘Australia: News from Home’, a lithograph on paper, by George Baxter, 1853.

Stephanie Jaehrling