The Print Collection

The Print Collection was founded by Dr Orde Poynton in 1959, when he gave his collection of Old Master prints to the University of Melbourne Library, along with the bulk of his collection of rare books. In 1964 the collection was enlarged by Mrs L. I. Wright, who bequeathed the print collection of her late husband, the renowned London dealer and connoisseur Harold J. L. Wright, to the University. She stipulated however that the collection be divided between Australia and New Zealand, and so half of this great collection is now in the National Art Gallery in Wellington. A further enhancement of the collection took place in 1967, when a long term loan was arranged between Eric Westbrook, Director of the National Gallery of Victoria, and Axel Lodewycks, the University Librarian. This loan consists of almost 3,000 prints and drawings, which the National Gallery could not then accommodate in its new premises on St Kilda Road. In the years since, the Print Collection has been strengthened by other donations, bequests and purchases, until it now numbers about 18,000 items, making it similar in size to the collections of the National Gallery of Victoria, the National Gallery of Australia and the Art Gallery of South Australia.

There are many treasures in the collection, which focusses mainly on European art of the 16th to the 18th century. Artists represented in the collection include Albrecht Dürer, Lucas van Leyden, Marcantonio Raimondi, Guido Reni, Rembrandt van Rijn, William Hogarth, Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, Giovanni Battista Piranesi, Francisco Goya, James McNeill Whistler and Lionel Lindsay. There is a set of bound volumes of engravings by the Sadelers, an important family of printmakers who worked across Europe in the 17th century. These volumes formerly belonged to the Duke of Northumberland, and were kept at Syon house near London. They constitute one of the most significant collections of work by the Sadelers in the world.

Not only the size of the Print Collection, but the strength and depth of its holdings, make it one of the most significant cultural assets in Australia, and a collection of world importance. The University Library is one of only a very few libraries in the world, such as the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris and the Library of Congress in Washington, to hold print collections. The collection is an invaluable teaching and research resource, and is active not only in the University, but also in the community, through travelling exhibitions and loans to other institutions.

Presented by the Friends of the Baillieu Library

A List of Books Presented to the University of Melbourne 1966–1987

by Merete Smith

To celebrate the 21st anniversary of the Friends of the Baillieu Library in 1987, a booklet was published, Friends of the Baillieu Library: A List of Books Presented to the University of Melbourne 1966–1987 listing the first 220 donations made by the Friends. During the following decade, 1988 to 1998, a further 34 books have been given to the Library by the Friends. The smaller quantity resulted from a conscious effort to concentrate on major purchases rather than, as sometimes in the past, a larger number of minor purchases, which are more adequately catered for through the main budget. It also reflects the smaller number of financial members of the Friends following the decision not to give automatic borrowing rights as part of membership privileges.

A history of the purchasing program year for year is now given, followed by a listing of the books in the categories used in the original booklet, numbered 221 onwards.

The major purchase of 1987 was Pierre Bulliard, Herbier de la France in five volumes. This purchase far exceeded the funds available to the Friends. Money was borrowed from the University and gradually paid off. Bulliard therefore features as a major purchase in Annual Reports for a number of years.
The arrangement of paying off this purchase gradually to the University allowed a continuous purchasing program to take place. In 1988, the generosity of the University in underwriting this obligation allowed the Friends to buy two significant works. Thomas Sprat’s History of the Royal Society, London, 1667, filled a gap in the Library’s holdings of Royal Society publications, while D’Entrecasteaux’s Voyage de D’Entrecasteaux envoyé à la Recherche de la Perouse, Paris, 1808, strengthens the Library’s holdings of French accounts of exploration. A small number of prospectuses from the Golden Cockerel Press were also acquired, adding to the Library’s already impressive collection of ephemera from that press.

During 1989 the Friends consolidated their position without making any significant acquisitions. The $10,000 still owing to the University Library for the Herbier de la France was paid, and the Friends went into 1990 with a healthy credit balance.

The most significant purchases during 1990 were three works presented to the Library by the Friends in memory of the late Chancellor Professor Sir Roy Douglas Wright:

- An Extract of a Printed Letter, Addressed to the Publisher by Jean Denis Touching the Differences Risen about the Transfusion of Blood, London, 1668;
- and thirdly, A Series of Engravings Accompanied with Explanations by Matthew Baillie, which are intended to illustrate the morbid anatomy of some of the most important parts of the human body, London, 1799–1800.


As well as the Lambeth Apocalypse noted in the 1990 review, the Friends committed themselves to two exceptional purchases during 1991: Adolphe Alphand’s Les Promenades de Paris (1867–1873) provides an extraordinary record of Haussman’s and Napoleon III’s vision of Paris. Of immense value to French and urban historians generally, it has special relevance to students of the history of Melbourne, the development of which was heavily and consciously influenced by Haussman’s Paris.

Das Gebetbuch Lorenzos de Medici 1485, Handschrift Clm 23639 der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek, Munchen, Frankfurt, S. Fischer Verlag, 1992, added another jewel to the Library’s exceptional collection of manuscripts in facsimile, while providing in its exquisite illustrations a window on the Italy of the Medici.

The high point of 1992 was the acquisition of a relatively insignificant-looking book, Cranmer Byng’s Tomorrow’s Star. This was the only one of 214 Golden Cockerel Press books produced between 1921 and 1976 not already held by the University Library. When it was finally acquired, the Friend’s long standing commitment to complete the Library’s holdings of Golden Cockerel Press books was finally achieved. Another notable acquisition made the Friends’ 25th anniversary year a happy one. Alphonse Derallier d’Argenville’s Théorie et la Pratique du Jardinage, (1709), continued the Friends’ well established
support of 18th century French books, especially ones of landscape and botanical interest.

In 1993 the Friends agreed to purchase a splendid ten volume work on archaeology especially recommended by Frank Sear, Professor of Classical Studies, whose talk at the 1992 Friends Annual Dinner will be remembered by many members. It is *Pompei: pitture e mosaici*, published under the direction of Professor Giovanni Pugliese Carratelli, by Treccani, Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana, Rome.

Two major acquisitions were made during 1994: The Hydrographical atlas of the first voyage of Dumont d’Urville (in the Astrolabe (Paris, 1833) and the facsimile of the medieval manuscript *Les très belles heures de Notre Dame*. However, in order to consolidate the funds, the Friends made no purchases during 1995.

In 1996 the Friends made one major purchase to mark the retirement of Rodney Davidson as President of the Friends, a position which he had held for 18 years. The book, which was purchased on the recommendation of the then Curator of Australiana, Margaret Murphy and Rodney Davidson is *A Second Voyage Round the World* (1776). This work is commonly known as the “Cambridge Cook” because of the widely held view that the anonymous author was a Cambridge University student. It appears to be a surreptitious account of Cook’s second voyage from the journal of one of the officers, published anonymously, a year before the official account. This purchase was particularly pleasing since it was the only significant contemporary work on James Cook’s voyages not held in our Australiana Collection, and was on the Library’s list of “most wanted” items for this collection. The addition of this book adds greatly to the research value of the collections of Cook and of voyages within the Library. The purchase price was to be funded partly by the Friends’ funds and partly through a fundraising effort since it was well beyond the means of the Friends. The University Librarian generously agreed to cover the balance through Library Funds.

In 1997 *The Morgan Crusader Bible: The Picture Bible of Saint Louis* from Faksimile Verlag Luzern became the major purchase of the year for the Friends. This superb facsimile of a medieval manuscript was produced as a close copy of the original manuscript in a limited edition of 980 copies only.

The major purchase for 1998 was *Dante Gabriel Rossetti, (1828–1882) Hand and Soul*, Kelmscott Press, 1895. The Friends Committee has recently decided to try to complete the Kelmscott Press holdings as one of its priorities, as 44 out of 54 possible titles are now held. Other future purchases are intended to take place within the fields of Australian and 17th century Royal Society of London Publications. continued on page 47
A LIST OF BOOKS PRESENTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE 1988-1998

The numbers follow on from the 220 items listed in the 1966-1987 bibliography of books presented to the University Library by the Friends of the Baillieu Library.

ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE

GARDENING


ART OF THE BOOK

Golden Cockerel Press


Kelmscott Press


BOTANICAL SCIENCES


EUROPEAN HISTORY


continued on page 48
MANUSCRIPTS (FACSIMILES)

228. Das Blumen-Stundenbuch = Le livre d’heures aux fleurs, Faksimile Verlag, Lucerne c1991.
Facsimile of Book of Hours (Ms. Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Clm 23637), in Latin; includes commentary in German and French. Issued in plexiglass case (Presented 1990).

Full colour facsimile of Book of Hours (Ms. Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Clm 23639), issued in box (Presented 1991).


Facsimile, limited edition of 980 copies of the original manuscript (Presented 1997).

PHYSICAL SCIENCES


MEDICAL HISTORY


VOYAGES AND TRAVELS

238. An Account of a Controversy betwixt Stephano de Angelis, and John Baptista Riccioli, Concerning the Motion of the Earth. An Enlargement of the Observations ... Imparted by a Curious Travellour to Jamaica ... An Extract of a Printed Letter ... Touching a Late Difference, Risen at Paris, About the Transfusion of Bloud. An Account of two books ..., [London], in the Savoy, printed by T. N. for John Martyn ... 1668 (Presented 1989).


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