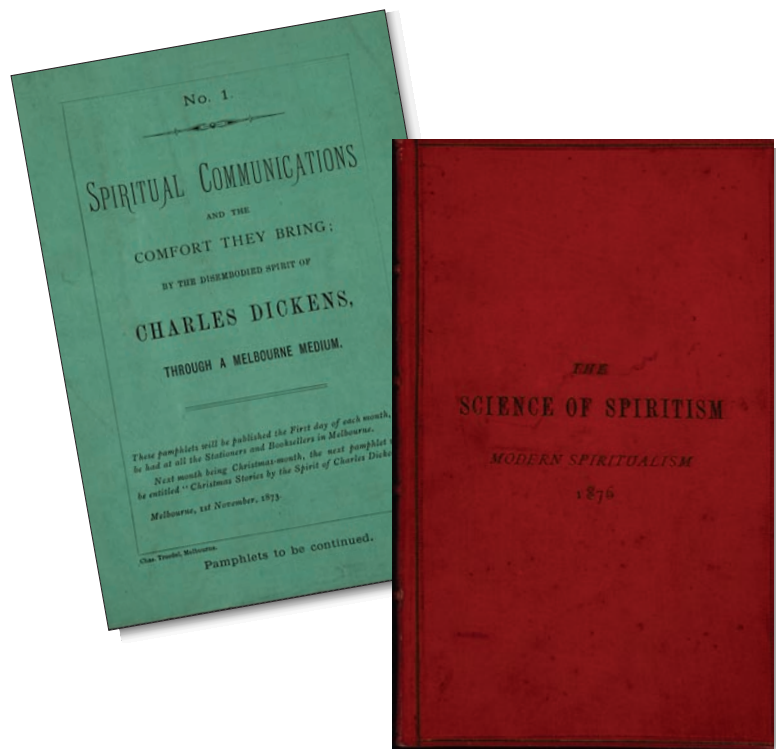


Recent Acquisitions

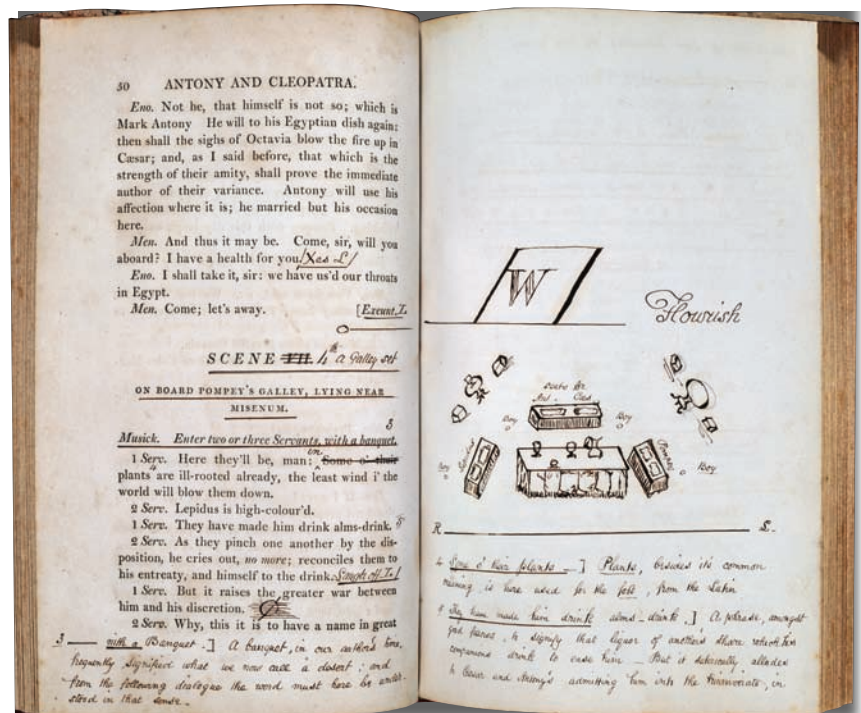
Not long ago a Melbourne book auction made headlines when Canberra's National Museum outbid the State Library of Victoria for two key foundation documents relating to the settlement of Port Phillip in 1834–1835. The documents were from the collection of Dr John Chapman, which included a wealth of other early Australiana. Although not in the National Museum/State Library league, the University of Melbourne Library was successful in bidding for a number of items that will greatly enhance the research strengths of our rare book and archival collections.

The most striking item acquired was the prompt book for a performance of Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra* at Melbourne's Theatre Royal in 1856, at the height of the gold rushes. Interleaved through the book are detailed stage directions, alterations to the text (with extensive explanations), and even a sketch for a set design! The book carries the signature of R.W. Younge, stage-manager for the English actor Gustavus Brooke, who had been brought to Melbourne by the entrepreneur George Coppin.

Another important set of Gold Rush documents is the records of the Victoria Gold Escort Company, set up in 1852 to provide security for the transport of gold from the diggings to Melbourne. These documents will supplement material already held at the



Two Spiritualist pamphlets: *Spiritual Communications and the Comfort They Bring*, by the disembodied spirit of Charles Dickens, through a Melbourne medium. (Melbourne, Chas. Troedel, 1873.); and *The Science of Spiritism: modern spiritualism*. (Melbourne, Walker, May and Co., 1876.)



A set sketch and written stage notes, in William Shakespeare, *Antony and Cleopatra: a tragedy*, published in the 19th century.



Above: Cover and illustrations of *Revised Catalogue of Engines, Boilers, Agricultural, Mining, Sawing, and Other Machinery*. (Melbourne, David Munro and Co, c. 1885.)

Right: Photograph of Princes Bridge, Melbourne, which was found in the copy of David Munro and Co.'s catalogue shown above.



University of Melbourne Archives. Also acquired was a rare pamphlet, *The Present State of Melbourne and the Gold Fields of Victoria*, published in London in 1853 as a guide for intending 'diggers': only two other copies of this work are known to be held in Australian libraries.

Two pre-Gold Rush items were acquired: an extremely rare 1843 Melbourne printing of statutes for government and administration of justice in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land; and the first two volumes of John Dunmore Lang's Sydney newspaper, *The Colonist* (1835–1840), which not only carries reports of the Port Phillip settlement but also contains extensive discussions of the development and activities of the colonial professions.

The University's resources for the study of the urban development of

Melbourne were enriched by the acquisition of two items: Donald McLeod's *Melbourne Factories* (1868), which contains detailed descriptions of individual factories; and an illustrated catalogue of engineering firm David Munro and Co., dating from the mid-1880s (the height of the land boom). Munro and Co. supplied material for the construction of Princes Bridge, and this copy of their catalogue includes a photograph of the opening of the bridge in 1888.

Other items with significant research potential include the *Cantata Written Expressly for the Opening Ceremony of the Sydney International Exhibition*,

1879–80, music by Paolo Giorza, words by Henry Kendall; a rare dentistry text, H. Hayes-Norman, *Arthur Redivivus, or, The Arthur System for the Prevention of Proximate Decay of the Teeth* (Adelaide, 1892); and two rare Spiritualist pamphlets, *Spiritual Communications and the Comfort they Bring, by the Disembodied Spirit of Charles Dickens, through a Melbourne Medium* (1873), and *The Science of Spiritism* (1876), the latter written by Hugh Junor Browne, soon to become the reluctant father-in-law of a young politician called Alfred Deakin.

Ian Morrison
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