

Recent Acquisitions

by Stephanie Jaehrling

'Recent Acquisitions: an exhibition of new material', held in the Baillieu Library earlier this year, highlighted recent purchases and donations in three of the University of Melbourne's important collections, the University of Melbourne Archives, Baillieu Library Special Collections, and the Grainger Collection. Each display cabinet featured a different aspect of the University's cultural collections, and the material chosen for display, while eclectic, had an Australian focus. Selected items from the exhibition are shown here.

Stephanie Jaehrling curated the Baillieu Library's *Recent Acquisitions* exhibition. She is the Publications Coordinator in the University of Melbourne's Information Division.

ARTISTS' BOOKS IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

■ This artwork is from one of a series of Artists' Books which poet Chris Wallace-Crabbe and artist Bruno Leti have collaborated on in recent years, several of which are held in Special Collections.

Chris Wallace-Crabbe (1934–) and Bruno Leti (1941–), *The Alignments (One)*, Canberra, Bruno Leti, Canberra School of Art, 2000. Poetry by Chris Wallace-Crabbe, artwork by Bruno Leti. Limited edition of 30 numbered and signed copies. Special Collections' copy is no. 9.



COMICS IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



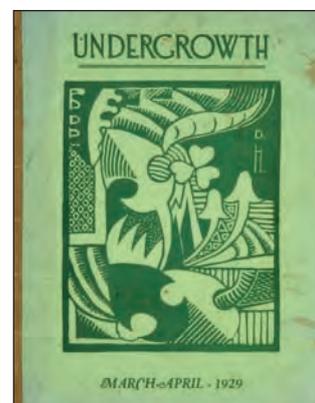
■ Eric Jolliffe, *Trent of the Territory: Australian adventure comics*, Cremorne, NSW, E. Jolliffe, 1946?

Eric Jolliffe (1907–) was born in Portsmouth, England and moved to Australia as a child. He travelled extensively around Australia and studied art in the 1920s. It was not unusual at that time for local comic artists, surrounded as they were by American comics, to give their work an Australian flavour, using Australian settings, characters and language. Jolliffe's *Trent of the Territory* is set in the outback, and depicts Australian animals and vegetation, as well as Aboriginal characters.

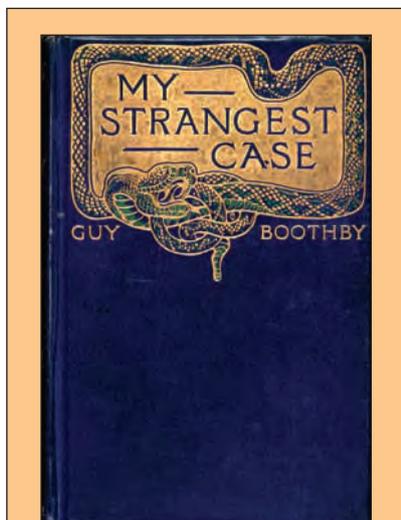
MAGAZINES IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

■ This short-lived Sydney arts magazine contains articles, stories, poetry, letters and lino-cuts by various contributors. The University Library purchased four issues of this magazine, each with a different coloured lino-cut cover, all of which were displayed in the exhibition.

Undergrowth: a magazine of youth and ideals, edited by Nancy A. Hall and Dore Hawthorne, Sydney, N. Hall and D. Hawthorne, 1924–1930?

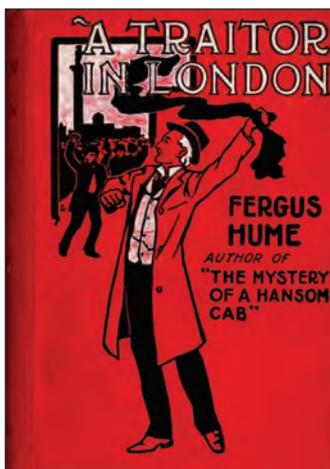


AUSTRALIAN LITERATURE
IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



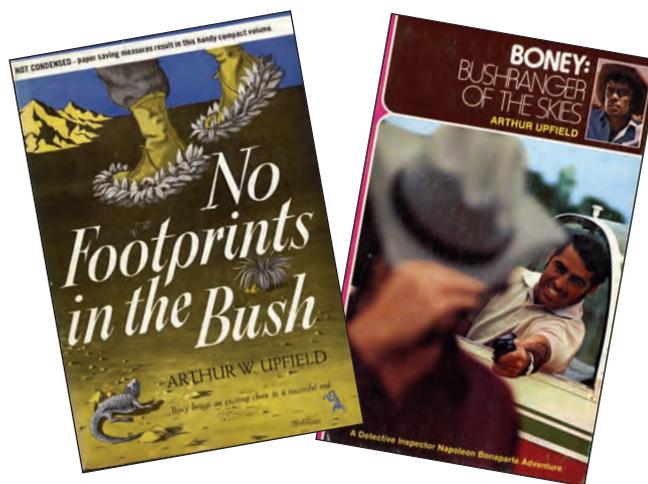
■ Guy Boothby, *My Strangest Case*, illustrated by Harold Piffard, London, Ward, Lock and Company, 1902.

Guy Boothby (1867–1905) was born in Adelaide. He moved to England in 1894, where he became a successful novelist. Like other authors who moved from Australia to England, many of his approximately 50 adventure stories contain Australian settings and references.



■ Fergus Hume, *A Traitor in London*, London, John Long, 1900.

Ferguson Wright Hume (1859–1932) was born in England, grew up in New Zealand and moved to Melbourne in 1885, where he worked as a barrister's clerk. Deciding to write a novel, but not knowing what to write, he said, 'I enquired of a leading Melbourne bookseller what style of book he sold most of. He replied that the detective stories of Gaboriau had a large sale ... I bought all his works — eleven or thereabouts — and read them carefully. The style of these stories attracted me, and I determined to write a book of the same class; containing a mystery, a murder, and a description of low life in Melbourne.' The resulting book, *The Mystery of a Hansom Cab*, was a huge success. Hume wrote over 130 mystery and adventure stories, a few of which were set in Australia. Special Collections has substantial holdings of Hume's work.



■ Arthur Upfield's original manuscript of these books, recently purchased by the University of Melbourne Library, was titled *Burning Water* and was written circa 1939. The book was published in numerous editions under the title *Bushranger of the Skies* in Australia and the United Kingdom and *No Footprints in the Bush* in the United States. Although 'Bony' was the spelling preferred by the author, Norfolk International Production in its television version of the Bony stories used 'Boney'. (*No Footprints in the Bush*, New York, Doubleday, Doran for the Crime Club, 1944; *Bushranger of the Skies*, Sydney, Arkon Paperbacks, 1972.)

Arthur William Upfield (1890–1964) is one of Australia's best known mystery writers. He was born in England and came to Australia in his early 20s. Upfield fell in love with the country and spent ten years travelling around the outback, working at odd jobs. He developed an appreciation of Aboriginal culture, which would later inform his fiction. In the 1920s Upfield created his famous character, Inspector Napoleon Bonaparte, or 'Bony', of the Queensland Police. Upfield wrote 29 novels featuring Bony, the son of an Aboriginal mother and white father, and most of the stories were set in outback Australia. Upfield's stories became very popular in the United Kingdom and the United States during the 1940s, and have been published in many other languages, although it was only much later that Upfield received due recognition in Australia for his work.

AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

■ This quirky children's book is one of a series titled 'Mother and Baby Animal Books', designed by Cyril von Baumann, 'Noted American Explorer and Naturalist'. The joey ('Kankie') in the kangaroo's pouch on the cover is removable.

Roselle Ross, *Kankie Kangaroo* – who couldn't hop, illustrated by Charles E. Bracker, covers by Paul Kaloda, New York, Mazton Publishers, 1945. This copy is inscribed, 'To Leah and Bernard with my love, Sis. Roselle Ross, October 1945'.



■ Photograph of Malcolm and Tammy Fraser with United States president, Ronald Reagan, in a photograph album titled 'US 1981 — US/ Japan/Korea 1982'.

COLLECTION OF THE RT. HON. JOHN MALCOLM FRASER IN THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

Recently the University Archives received the first part of a donation by Malcolm Fraser (1930–) of his personal papers and photographs. Collected from the National Archives of Australia as well as Mr Fraser's office, the current donation mainly pertains to the periods preceding and immediately following his Prime Ministership (1975–1983).

The papers include his personal work with the United Nations, the Commonwealth and CARE Australia, as well as photographic documentation of his travels and family life. The records are also anticipated to be of value for those with an interest in rural life, farm machinery and automotive history.

GRAINGER COLLECTION

■ Mortimer Menpes, 'Portrait of Whistler', etching and dry point, 20 x 15 cm (plate dimensions), c1880.

Mortimer Luddington Menpes (1855–1938) was a South Australian-born print maker, painter and author who worked in London in the 1880s as a studio assistant to the influential but tempestuous American painter, James McNeill Whistler. Menpes became a very prolific and successful artist in his own right and also a respected author and journalist.

The Australian composer Percy Aldridge Grainger met Menpes during Grainger's years as a performer in Edwardian London. The Grainger Collection contains a fine suite of the artist's prints, letters and photographs from his family, and a selection of his publications.

