

NOTES ON SOME OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY'S MOST SIGNIFICANT DONATED COLLECTIONS

AMONGST THE MULTITUDE of purchased material in the University of Melbourne Library there are very many valuable donated books both on the open shelves and in the closed collections. Within the Library there are numerous part collections which have come together over many years and through many benefactors. However, some of the collections are of particular significance. The following is a summary of some of these major donations and bequests.

THE POYNTON COLLECTION

Dr Orde Poynton has donated close to 15,000 volumes to the University of Melbourne during the period from 1959 to date. In 1977 he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of Melbourne in recognition of his services to the University. Dr Poynton's astounding book collection was largely built up after the Second World War; the vast Poynton collection of books which existed in London before the War was for the most part destroyed in the Blitz.

Although the sheer size of the Poynton Collection makes it difficult to assess at a glance, its various parts are closely interconnected. Amongst Dr Poynton's gifts are about 3,500 volumes of Greek and Latin classics covering the history of printing from the 15th to the 19th century, several thousand first and early editions of major English authors of the 18th and 19th centuries and a large collection of modern private press books and limited and first editions of 20th century writers. As well as the



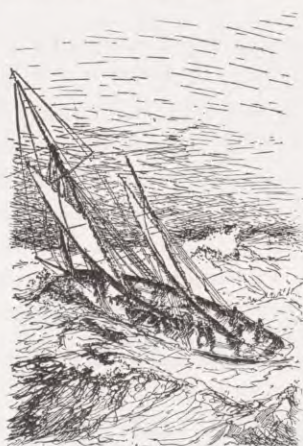
Poynton Collection: Frontispiece of *A Dream of John Ball* by William Morris, Kelmscott Press, 1892. Art by Edward Burne-Jones, inscription and narrow border by William Morris, engraved by W. H. Hopper. (University of Melbourne Library Collection.)

Kelmscott Press books the private press collection includes substantial holdings of for instance Ashendene, Golden Cockerel, Vale and Essex House Press. The Scott Collection of approximately

2,500 volumes, all by and about Sir Walter Scott, ranks amongst the best Scott collections in the world. The focus of the collection as a whole is on book production, printing and book art.

THE VILLIERS COLLECTION

This is a collection of about 3,000 volumes pertaining to ships and the sea. It originated as the personal working collection of the novelist Alan Villiers, but is being developed into a significant collection about ships and the sea. It is a very mixed collection with many items of little monetary value but some very rare items. It contains much hard-to-find 20th century material. The collection was presented to the Library by the Potter Foundation in 1982, at which time the Library undertook to continue to add to it.



Villiers Collection: Illustration in *And Not to Yield*, London, 1953.

FRIENDS OF THE BAILLIEU LIBRARY

The Friends of the Baillieu Library was formed in 1966 with the purpose of assisting the University Library. The organisation still exists and fulfils that same purpose. Over the years the Friends have provided the funds to purchase numerous books required by the Library, particularly of a nature which made them difficult to purchase through the normal annual budget. This collection is dispersed throughout the Library's collections, with many of the books housed in the general and Australiana rare book collections.

THE RAAB COLLECTION

The Raab Collection was endowed by the family of the late Felix Raab, a student of this University who died in 1962 shortly after presenting his thesis on Machiavelli. The scope of the collection is defined in the University Calendar as "Political thought in the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries, with special reference to Machiavelli and his influence". Purchases are made on the recommendation of the Professors of History.

The collection, which at present consists of some 200 volumes, contains Raab's own working library which was presented to the Library on his death and later purchases.

THE MORGAN COLLECTION OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS

This collection, now comprising about 4,000 volumes, is based on that donated by Mr. Frederick Morgan in 1954, but is still being actively developed by the Library. It is a collection of children's books, particularly English and mostly published pre-1900, including many chapbooks and religious tracts which are now very sought after, and which provide insight into the lives of children in England in the 19th century.

THE KINGSTON COLLECTION

A virtually complete set of novels by this author forms an adjunct to the Morgan Collection.

THE CAMBRIDGE COLLECTION

One of our most recently acquired formed collections is the Cambridge Collection. This collection, now comprising about 1,300 volumes, all books about Cambridge University and the city of Cambridge dating from the 16th century to the present. The collection was partly purchased from, partly donated by, Dr Pierre Gorman in 1994. Significant additions to the collection are being donated by Dr Gorman on an ongoing basis, and donations from other collectors have also been accepted. The collection has grown in the last few years from about 500 volumes to its present size and is by now a collection of world wide significance attracting scholars from overseas as well as from Australia.



Pendlebury Collection: Plate XIII, An Ice House in John Papworth, *Hints on Ornamental Gardening: consisting of a series of designs for garden buildings, useful and decorative gates, fences, railings...*, London, 1823.

THE IVY MAY PENDLEBURY BEQUEST

A bequest of special significance came to the Library in 1977 from the Ivy May Pendlebury estate. It consists of the net annual income from the estate, and the sum therefore varies from year to year. The money is to be spent on "the purchase of and maintenance of suitable books to be installed in a special section of the Library of the University of Melbourne". The fund is being used to purchase British and European topography, colour plate books and books of engravings, social history and *belles lettres*, and the collection is housed with the Rare Book Collection in the Baillieu Library.

THE MEANJIN COLLECTION OF BOOKS AND SERIALS

About 2,000 volumes, works of fiction and non-fiction, the majority of them Australian publications from the 1950s to 1970s, from the library of Meanjin's founding editor, C. B. Christesen. This collection is a separate one to the Meanjin Archive.

THE DUCKER COLLECTION

In 1995 an exhibition was held in the Baillieu Library to celebrate the 50 year association of Dr Sophie Ducker with the University of Melbourne School of Botany. Dr Sophie Ducker's collection has been donated to the Library over many years, particularly since her retirement from the School of Botany in 1975, and the Library's Ducker Collection now consists of about 1,200 volumes. It reflects Dr Ducker's diverse interests in botany, especially marine botany, and her German background. In addition to her Doctorate in Science Dr Ducker was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by the University of Melbourne in 1993 for her contribution to the community at large.

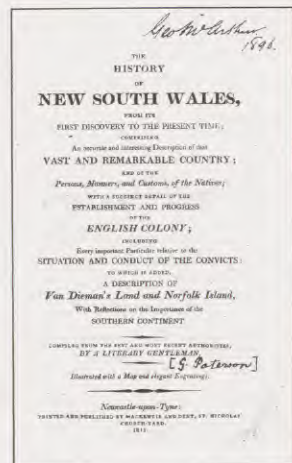
THE BALD COLLECTION

This is a small, but very significant collection of about 200 volumes of 17th century English poets, particularly John Donne and of English Romantic poets, especially Coleridge. The collection was bequeathed by Professor R. C. Bald, graduate of the University of Melbourne. He was Professor in English at the University of Chicago from 1952 to 1965 and the collection came to the Library after his death in 1965. It is a typical "scholar's working collection" with many books in inferior condition, bought for research value rather than for their condition. But because of the rarity of many of these books this is amongst the gems of formed collections in the Library.

THE MCARTHUR BEQUEST

The first major bequest of rare books to the University took place in 1903 after the death of George McArthur, a baker in Maldon in the Victorian gold fields. The bequest was occasioned by a visit with students to Maldon by J. W. Gregory, Professor of Geology and Mineralogy at the University of Melbourne. Professor Gregory so impressed George McArthur that he bequeathed his impressive book collection to the University. The collection included a number of incunabula (books printed before 1500), and a number of 16th and 17th century books which are now considered extremely rare. George McArthur was amongst the first book collectors to see the value of collecting Australiana, and his collection contained such gems as Paterson's History of New South Wales (1811).

The McArthur collection was not kept together, but dispersed throughout the Library system with the less rare material being placed on the open shelves. Many of these books are now housed in the Australian and non-Australian rare book collections.



McArthur Collection: Title page of G. Paterson, *The History of New South Wales from its first discovery to the present time...*, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1811. With George McArthur's name written top right corner.

McLAREN COLLECTION

The personal library of Mr Ian McLaren (now Dr Ian McLaren), bibliographer and former member of Parliament in Victoria, was acquired by the University in 1976. It then consisted of about 34,000 books, serials, newspapers, pamphlets, parliamentary papers, and ephemera, mainly relating to Australia. The collection reflects its owner's interests in the active world of politics. It represented at the time a very significant addition to the resources of the Baillieu Library in the field of Australiana. Since 1976 the collection has grown to about 50,000 volumes through generous donations from Mr McLaren and purchases by the Library. Mr McLaren was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by the University of Melbourne in 1996.

THE GRIMWADE COLLECTION

This collection of about 1,000 volumes belonging to Sir Russell and Lady Grimwade was bequeathed to the University in 1973 as part of the larger bequest of the Miegunyah estate. Books were moved to the Library from 1979 onwards, but this transfer was not completed until 1987. The collection consists mainly of works of history, voyages, exploration, anthropology, natural history relating to Australia, including significant late 18th to early 19th century editions of fine early plate books.



Grimwade Collection: "View of the Governor's Retreat, New Norfolk, Van Diemen's Land", in Joseph Lycett, *Views in Australia, or, New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land delineated: in fifty views with descriptive letter press*, London, 1824.

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,



The Conversion of St Paul, by Hans Baldung (called Grien, c.1484/85–1545), woodcut, 297 x 194 mm. (Gift of Dr Orde Poynton, University of Melbourne Library Print Collection.)

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 1988–1998; A SUPPLEMENT TO THE 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.