

News from the collections

Melbourne Law School Rare Books Lecture

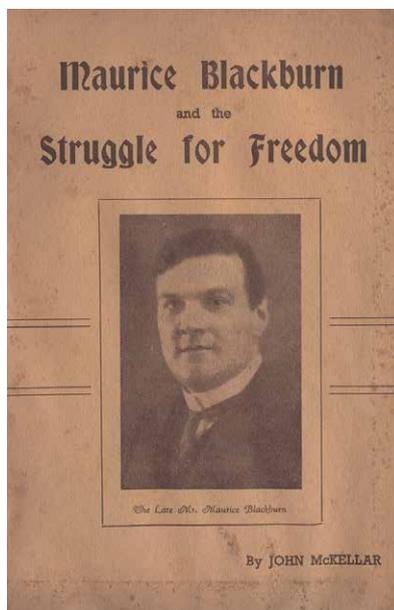
The next Melbourne Law School Rare Books Lecture, 'A very Australian story: Political libels and the conscription referendums of the First World War', will be delivered by Professor Mark Lunney of the School of Law, University of New England.

The conscription referendums of 1916 and 1917 divided Australia like few events before or since. They left a legacy of bitterness, elements of which can be traced through to World War II, when conscription for service abroad was introduced.

In his lecture Professor Lunney will discuss how some of these divisions in World War I were mediated, in often controversial circumstances, through the law of defamation. He believes that the combination of doctrinal clarification and local application gave the law of political libels of this period a very Australian flavour.

The Melbourne Law School Rare Books Lecture will be held on Thursday 21 July 2016 from 6 pm to 7 pm, in Room G08 at the Melbourne Law School, Pelham Street. Admission is free of charge but please book on law.unimelb.edu.au/events/detail?event_id=6581.

including preservation, cataloguing, exhibitions and public programs. The Victorian-based Museum Accreditation Program (MAP) is run by Museums Australia (Victoria), the professional association for the museum and gallery sector.



Medical History Museum gains museum accreditation

The Medical History Museum has been granted accreditation by Museums Australia (Victoria). Located in the Brownless Biomedical Library at the University of Melbourne, the Medical History Museum, led by senior curator Dr Jacqueline Healy, is the first of the University of Melbourne's cultural collections to meet the National Standards for Museums and Galleries.

To become accredited, museums spend between two and three years developing procedures, policies and practice to meet recognised standards in all aspects of museum work,



New Reading Room website and Library Collections blog

The Reading Room has launched a new website, providing researchers with a central point for information on using material from Special Collections (comprising Rare Books, Prints, and Rare Music), University of Melbourne Archives and the Grainger Museum. Researchers wanting to consult collections can find out how to search for and request material. There are also a number of videos and guides to introduce researchers to visiting the Reading Room and handling collection material.

Previous page, left: John McKellar, *Maurice Blackburn and the struggle for freedom*, Melbourne: Anti-Conscription Campaign, 1945. Ian McLaren Collection, Rare Books, Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne.

Previous page, right: Curator Dr Jacqueline Healy and members of the Museum Accreditation Program at the Medical History Museum.

The Library Collections blog has also been relaunched—regular posts tell fascinating stories behind collection treasures, announce new acquisitions, and describe the origins and histories of objects. Peek behind the scenes and hear firsthand from some of the staff who care for our university’s valuable cultural material.

View the **Reading Room website** at library.unimelb.edu.au/readingroom.
For email enquiries: reading-room@unimelb.edu.au.

The **Library Collections blog** is at blogs.unimelb.edu.au/librarycollections.

Australian Red Cross Archive

In April 2016 University of Melbourne Archives completed a second acquisition of the Australian Red Cross Archive. This rich and extensive archive was donated to the university in 2015 by Red Cross as a gift to the nation, to commemorate the centenary of Red Cross services in Australia.

The second transfer comprises 85 metres (479 units), which include prisoner of war, wounded and missing persons tracing records from World War II, Korea and Vietnam (1941–72); Voluntary Aid Detachment membership registers (1915–); Junior Red Cross records;

Red Cross promotional posters and much more.

The dedicated team of archivists and volunteers at Australian Red Cross Melbourne office worked hard to prepare this material for transfer, most of which will become available to researchers later this year.

Germaine Greer Archive

University of Melbourne Archives has accessioned two new groups of records for the Germaine Greer Archive. Five units relate in part to Cave Creek, a 65-hectare block of remnant Queensland rainforest that Greer bought in 2001. The other three units, which came from Greer’s home in England, comprise selected books from Greer’s library, including works cited in *The female eunuch*, and print and correspondence files from the year 2010.

As part of the university’s Shakespeare 400 celebrations, 23 Shakespeare-related items are being digitised, including Greer’s handwritten notes from a 1958 English seminar at the University of Melbourne, an annotated typescript for her PhD on ‘The ethic of love and marriage in Shakespeare’s early comedies’ (1967), seven of her multilingual PhD research notebooks, and handwritten notes for 16 lectures on Shakespeare’s

Below: Pressed flowers from ‘Belle La France’, 9 April 1916. 1981.0081, Ray Jones Collection, University of Melbourne Archives.

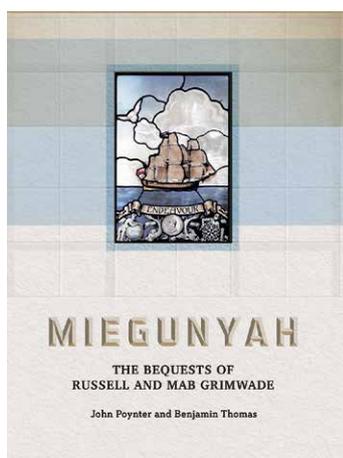
comedies, delivered at Warwick University, where Greer was an English lecturer from 1968 to 1973.

Somewhere in France

To commemorate the centenary of the arrival of Australian troops on the Western Front, the University of Melbourne Library staged the exhibition *Somewhere in France* from 11 March to 26 June 2016 in the Noel Shaw Gallery, Baillieu Library.

This exhibition built on a research project of the same name jointly developed in 2012 by the School of Languages and Linguistics (French Studies) and the University of Melbourne Archives (UMA), primarily directed by French languages lecturer Diane de Saint Léger and archivist Katie Wood.





Miegunyah: The bequests of Russell and Mab Grimwade, by John Poynter and Benjamin Thomas, is published under the Miegunyah Press imprint of Melbourne University Publishing.

Each year, French language students learn about the experiences of Australian soldiers on the Western Front in World War I by exploring collections in UMA. The students choose a topic for their final assessment, which is published in French on the *Somewhere in France* blog. The exhibition themes emerged out of the students' own investigations and the stories reveal the personal and intimate experiences of soldiers whose documents are housed at UMA.

Curated by Dr Jenny Long, the exhibition explored how the experience of Australians on the Western Front shaped new ways of imagining France, examining the ways in which France and Belgium were represented in diaries, letters, postcards, images and ephemera of the time. Encounters with the language, food and culture shaped the perceptions and attitudes of the young Australian soldiers.

Miegunyah: The bequests of Russell and Mab Grimwade

In December 2015, Melbourne University Publishing, under its Miegunyah Press imprint, launched a new book that extensively documents the important philanthropic contributions of Russell and Mab Grimwade to the University of Melbourne. *Miegunyah: The bequests*

of Russell and Mab Grimwade, written by Emeritus Professor John Poynter AO and Dr Benjamin Thomas, explores the Grimwade bequests, which have opened up extraordinary opportunities for both scholarship and the arts at the university. Sir Russell Grimwade's bequest was the origin of the Miegunyah Press itself, and the university's cultural collections have been enriched by the Grimwades' collections of art, rare books and Australiana. Grimwade's zeal for chemistry, appreciation of art and sense of obligation to preserve the past were also an inspiration for the development of the Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation.

New curator of rare books

Susan Thomas recently joined the University Library as rare books curator, where she will work closely with special collections librarian Susan Millard to manage and develop the university's significant collection of rare books, journals and ephemera.

Susan brings with her more than 25 years' experience working with special collections at the National Library of Australia, most recently as assistant curator of manuscripts. She has qualifications in library and archival management, history and philosophy, and is a student in the History of the Book program at the

University of London, specialising in medieval manuscripts and early book production. Susan can be contacted on susan.thomas@unimelb.edu.au or 9035 6432.

New curators at the Potter

The Ian Potter Museum of Art has recently appointed three curators to its exhibitions team. Curatorial manager Jacqueline Doughty and curator/exhibitions coordinator Samantha Comte (pictured) bring expertise in the contemporary art sector, with 40 years' combined experience ranging across state galleries and museums, contemporary art spaces and private collections. Grimwade collection curator Dr Meighen Katz brings expertise in 19th-century Australian history to her 11-month role researching the Sir Russell and Lady Grimwade Bequest.





Left: Attic black-figure oinochoe, 500–475 BCE. 2009.0234, gift of David and Marion Adams, Classics and Archaeology Collection, University of Melbourne.

Below: José Guadalupe Posada with Manuel Manilla and J. Cortes, *La Gran Calavera del 'Chin Chun Chan'*, 1904, letterpress and photo relief, 39.1 × 30.0 cm (sheet). 2016.0003.00A, purchased 2016, Baillieu Library Print Collection, University of Melbourne.

Water, marks and countenances: Works on paper from the Grainger Museum collection

This exhibition of prints, watercolours, drawings and sketches explores two significant thematic areas of the Grainger Museum's rich art collection: portraiture, and depictions of water and maritime culture. The sound of water lapping on boats was one of the inspirations for Grainger's Free Music experiments and compositions, and maritime images and renderings of stretches of water recur throughout Grainger's art collection. This exhibition combines the seldom seen with the well known, to shed new light on Grainger's life, art and ideas.

The exhibition *Water, marks and countenances* is at the Grainger Museum until 31 August 2016. See grainger.unimelb.edu.au for details.

Images of life: Ancient Greek vases

At the end of the Late Bronze Age, Greece was plunged into a dark age lasting for several centuries. In the 9th century BCE there was a revival of economic and artistic activity that culminated in the glories of the Classical period. During this time, black-figure and later red-figure vase painting techniques developed, enabling artists to produce some

of the most distinctive works of ancient Greece.

Most of the important pottery-producing centres of the Greek world are represented in the University of Melbourne's Classics and Archaeology Collection: Athens, Corinth, eastern Greece and southern Italy. The Greek vases held at the Ian Potter Museum of Art range in date from the 13th to the fourth centuries BCE.

The images and iconography of Greek vase painting are a tremendously rich resource for interpreting the attitudes and values of the ancient Athenians and Classical civilisation. The exhibition *Images of life*, curated by Dr Heather Jackson, includes vases showing mythical narratives and heroic subjects alongside more prosaic scenes such as sporting events, music lessons, domestic chores and children at play, all painting a vivid picture of life in ancient Greece.

The exhibition *Images of life: Ancient Greek vases* is at the Ian Potter Museum of Art until Sunday 18 September 2016.

The spirit of Mexico

The international scope of the Baillieu Library Print Collection has been broadened by the acquisition of three works by José Guadalupe Posada (1852–1913). Posada, who trained

as a lithographer in Mexico City, is regarded by many as the founder of Mexican printmaking. He worked at the publishing house of Antonio Vanegas Arroyo, which produced thousands of periodicals and broadsides. These ephemeral printed documents included caricatures of contemporary individuals, news, sensational stories and issues of the day. Posada was working during the Mexican Revolution (1910–20), a time when news sheets were an important vehicle for political messages and the shaping of an independent Mexican cultural identity. He made famous the *catrina*, or tall, affluently dressed female skeleton, which has since become a symbol in Mexican art.

