

# Museums and Collections Projects Program 2021

## University of Melbourne

### International House Collection

#### Project Guide

##### Research and interpretation: Collection objects audit

#### The Project

This project involves assisting in an audit of objects held in the International House Collection and undertaking research on the provenance of selected objects. Information uncovered will contribute to significance assessments of objects in the collection. This project work will aid in the management, accessibility, long-term preservation and appreciation of this collection.

#### Background

[International House](#) is a hall of residence owned by the University of Melbourne. Housing students from both Australia and overseas, IH was established in response to housing problems faced by international students in Melbourne in the late 1940s and early 1950s. IH's first residents (all male) arrived in 1957, with the official opening taking place the following year. The first female residents arrived in 1972, making International House the University of Melbourne's first residential college to admit women. In 2017 International House celebrated its sixtieth anniversary.

The [International House Collection](#) includes archives, photographs, artworks, furniture, objects and building fragments. Collection materials relate to themes and events such as the Colombo Plan, Asia-Australia relations, the experiences of international students and the history of the University of Melbourne. Materials in the IH Collection also relate to broader social themes including women's education, student housing and the 'internationalisation' of higher education. For more information about the history of International House, see <https://ihouse.unimelb.edu.au/about/history>.

#### Details

Working under the supervision of the Librarian and Archivist, this project involves assisting with an audit of objects held in the International House Collection. The project also involves discovering and researching objects not currently recognised as part of the collection. The student will ideally have an interest in International House and its history. Progress towards a degree in Cultural Materials Conservation, Art Curatorship, Museum Studies or a related area would be highly regarded. An understanding of collection management principles specific to the documentation of museum objects would be an advantage.

#### Benefits

Opportunity to work at close hand with one of the University of Melbourne's extensive cultural collections and for professional development through experience gained in working with a collection and applying collection management procedures and practice. Satisfaction in focusing on the range of objects within the International House Collection and in potentially uncovering new information about objects at International House. Involvement with this project helps make the University's cultural collections more accessible and assists in their interpretation, management and long-term preservation.

#### Supervisor

Dr Caitlin Stone, Librarian and Archivist, International House

