

# Introduction

Ian Renard

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the first issue of *University of Melbourne Collections*. This new magazine covers all 33 of the University's diverse cultural collections, including the library, archival and Grainger Museum collections which were so ably presented in its predecessor publication, *University of Melbourne Library Journal*.

The University of Melbourne is uniquely placed among Australian tertiary institutions with its internationally significant holdings of artworks, rare books, manuscripts, archives, photographs, scientific specimens and historic apparatus and artefacts. All University students and staff, as well as the wider community, are encouraged to take advantage of these remarkable collections, whether for a research project, honours, masters or doctoral thesis, journal



article, book, exhibition, or just for general interest and enjoyment.

It is particularly apt that this first issue should begin with a discussion of the history of the University's collections and the steps being taken to preserve them for future generations. This introductory article is complemented by the story of a group of community-minded citizens who have long supported the library

collections: The Friends of the Baillieu Library, currently celebrating their 40th anniversary. The number and quality of rare books, manuscripts, maps and other items that the Friends have helped the Library acquire over this period are remarkable, and should serve as an inspiration to others to support the University's collections. The Friends have also made a generous financial contribution to the production of this magazine.

I trust that you will enjoy reading this first issue of *University of Melbourne Collections*, and that it will inspire you to explore the collections themselves more closely.

**Ian Renard** was installed as the 19th Chancellor of the University of Melbourne in February 2005. A lawyer and company director, Mr Renard has served on University Council since 1994 and was appointed Deputy Chancellor in 2001.