

# News from the collections

## Building a storehouse of wisdom: The Baillieu Library redevelopment and the Research and Cultural Library

Karen Kealy

To celebrate the opening of the Baillieu Library's redesigned ground floor on Friday 12 August, free coffee was on offer to everyone who came through the doors. This proved popular with staff and students alike. It was a great pleasure to walk again through the Baillieu's grand front entrance, to explore the wonderful range of new study spaces and information technology facilities, and to relax in the quiet and restful seating amongst the reference collection, overlooking magnificent views of the south lawn. It was a novel experience to walk down the 'street' to the new committee room, passing samples of rare books displayed along the way. The building's architectural heritage has also been respected by opening up the graceful spiral staircase, a highlight of the 1959 design. Final touches, including the arrival of new furniture, were completed in September.

This is the first stage of the redevelopment of the entire Baillieu Library, which will include the building of a new Research and Cultural Library on the same site.



This ambitious project will incorporate not only new facilities for students and scholars, but will also be a sustainable building—a 'storehouse of wisdom' (as Lord Baillieu described a university library at the official opening in 1959) with an environmental conscience.

Lyons, a leading Melbourne-based architecture firm, has created the concept plans for the whole project, supported by a team of engineers and consultants with expertise in environmental engineering. Several noteworthy features will contribute

to the project's environmental and financial sustainability. While all new buildings on campus must achieve a minimum five-star green rating, we are aspiring to six stars. For example, we will retain the original 1959 footprint of the Baillieu Library with its glazed curtain facade. Although the project involves demolition of the two later extensions, the retention of one-third of the existing building constitutes a major re-use of existing structures, carrying a sustainability benefit.

**Opposite:** Baillieu Library ground floor, circular staircase. Photograph by Rachael Ferguson.

**Right:** Baillieu Library ground floor, the 'street'. Photograph by Rachael Ferguson.



Collection storage includes an automated storage and retrieval system to maximise the number of collections that can be kept on site, a closed compactus for Special Collections, and open-access shelving for higher-use material. The resulting building will be smaller, less dominating and less likely to overshadow lawns and neighbouring buildings. Annual savings in energy consumption for lighting, heating, ventilation and cooling are estimated at some \$2.3 million.

All paints, sealants, furnishings and flooring will have low levels of volatile organic compounds to minimise internal pollution. The marmoleum used on the ground floor replicates the feel of the original 1959 linoleum, yet is an environmentally stable, eco-friendly product. The architects will continue the special experience of the double-height spaces in the new building as well as the old. This design element forms one of the stylistic links between the 1959 building and the new interior space, and also has an environmental benefit. We have increased the penetration of daylight and placed seating around the window areas, supplemented by low-energy and sensor-controlled artificial lighting. The 1959 facade, which must be preserved as it is of

social and cultural significance, will be shaded by automated, perforated metal, external shutters when the full impact of the sun is present; these will fold up completely for the remainder of the day.

The Research and Cultural Library will incorporate a gallery and exhibition space to showcase our wonderful rare books, prints and other cultural collections. The design also incorporates a roof garden, accessible from the exhibition space and staff area. This will improve the amenity of the building and its thermal control.

The pursuit of sustainability is undoubtedly good for the planet, but this is not the only benefit of building green infrastructure. After initial investment, most sustainability initiatives will help us manage the recurrent costs of maintaining and operating library buildings and services. Further, the opportunity to redevelop these areas has permitted consolidation of library spaces and re-thinking service delivery models that are both cost-effective and more attuned to modern student needs.

All visitors are welcome to the Baillieu Library. For opening hours, see [www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/opentime.html#BA](http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/opentime.html#BA).

### R.E. Ross Trust helps archival researchers

The new web interface to the University of Melbourne Archives database, released in June 2011, allows greater searching and browsing of the collection. This has recently been augmented by a project which is making comprehensive hard-copy lists of the contents of our collections (previously available only in paper format) accessible online. This has been made possible by generous financial support from the R.E. Ross Trust. Prior to the advent of personal computer technology during the 1990s, lists of collections were typed, sometimes even handwritten. These old guides remain invaluable in identifying and retrieving items in collections, but before work on this project commenced, these finding aids were only available to researchers by visiting the Cultural Collections Reading Room. A small team of archivists has been working since February to review both typed and digital lists, match their accuracy with the holdings, scan and update them. To date, more than 518 new lists have been attached to the online catalogue, and are now available to researchers.

Care has been taken to retain original documentation that was



John Ryrie, woodcut from Adrian Rawlins and John Ryrie, *Pelican poems*, Melbourne: Incunabula Press, 1997. Special Collections, Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne. The university's copy is no. 1 of the limited edition of 20 numbered copies signed by the author and the artist. To be included in the forthcoming exhibition *Adventure and art: Fine press books from the 15th to 21st centuries* from Special Collections, Baillieu Library, the University of Melbourne.

created by archivists, sometimes in consultation with the donor, at the time that collections were transferred. These old lists are invariably comprehensive, detailed and reliable and furnish the provenance and context of the collections. The process of reviewing existing lists provides us with a rare opportunity to revisit some of the University of Melbourne Archives' oldest and most significant collections, revealing their breadth and diversity. Now anyone with internet access can explore in detail the contents of collections such as those of the Royal Victorian College of Nursing, Lady Northcote Permanent Orchestra Trust Fund, Australian Foremen Stevedores' Association – Victorian Branch, Stock Exchange of Melbourne, Clements Langford Pty Ltd, as well as University of Melbourne records relating to faculties, clubs and societies, individuals and administration.

Feedback from researchers has been positive, and staff can now retrieve specific items more efficiently. In this way the generous support of the R.E. Ross Trust is already helping to expose our collections to a broader audience of researchers, who, in turn, are able to explore the depth of our collections in greater detail.

### Prime Minister's collection transfer complete

University of Melbourne Archives has received the final transfer of material from the National Archives of Australia to augment the Malcolm Fraser Collection. This accession amounts to over 15 metres and includes important documents such as the shadow cabinet meeting papers from November 1975, subject files relating to a variety of issues and files of personal and political correspondence. A significant project to integrate this material and complete the listing of the collection will begin in early 2012.

The collections of the University of Melbourne Archives are open to all genuine researchers, see [www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/archives](http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/archives).

### Adventure and art

Alan Loney and Susan Millard

The term 'fine press book' has had a chequered career as a description for what many printers do. For some it has been too precious a term, for others it has not been strong enough. But in any event, the term does point to an intention on behalf of the small or private press printer to produce work to the highest technical standards that they can.

The exhibition *Adventure and art: Fine press books from the 15th to 21st centuries* from Special Collections, Baillieu Library, the University of Melbourne will be about the printer's craft, evidenced from the first printed books in the 15th century, and given a hugely influential impetus by William Morris and the Arts and Crafts movement at the end of the 19th. This exhibition will show how a number of technologies that are obsolete in commercial terms are still current in creative and craft terms, with books from Europe, North America, New Zealand and Australia.

Curated by poet and fine press printer Alan Loney, the exhibition will be accompanied by a one-day seminar on the fine press book, with speakers from Australia and New Zealand, including Peter Vangioni, Andrew Schuller, Caren Florence and Chris Wallace-Crabbe.

The exhibition *Adventure and art: Fine press books from the 15th to 21st centuries* from Special Collections, Baillieu Library, the University of Melbourne will be held in the Leigh Scott Gallery, Baillieu Library, from 1 March to 31 May 2012. The symposium will be held on Friday 9 March 2012, 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m., followed by a special viewing of the exhibition.

John and Richard Contiguglia at the Grainger Museum in August 2011. Photograph by Alison Rabinovici.



### A special meeting: Unexpected treasures

#### Suzanne Bravery

On 18 March 1950 in Auburn, New York, 12-year-old twin brothers Richard and John Contiguglia performed in the same concert as Percy Grainger. This meeting with Grainger and their performance influenced the course of their lives as concert pianists. Grainger's personality, his tweed-suited and hatless appearance when arriving after a snowstorm that morning, making breakfast in the Contiguglia home as comfortably as a family member, and the strong and genuine encouragement of the composer-performer treating the boys as colleagues and making lists of duo-piano pieces for them to play when they expressed a dearth of such material, have all remained with them as vivid and cherished memories.

On 9 August 2011, after performances of Grainger duets at the Australian Festival of Chamber Music in Townsville the previous weekend, John and Richard Contiguglia, at age 74, visited the Grainger Museum to donate correspondence between their family and Percy Grainger. In this visit (their first to Australia) their enthusiasm for, and championing of, Grainger in concert performance and recordings, more than six decades

after a one-day meeting, was obvious and infectious as they generously shared these memories.

The brothers pursued music, studying at Yale and then in London under Dame Myra Hess. They have performed in major United States venues including the Lincoln Centre and Carnegie Hall, in the United Kingdom and at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. They are known for recordings of Liszt and Grainger and continue to perform, with bookings secured into 2012.

Richard and John have generously donated to the Grainger Museum two letters written by Grainger in 1950. Grainger's letter of 19 March 1950 from his White Plains home to Mrs Contiguglia is handwritten, enclosing a list of publishers' agents in New York. In it Grainger also compliments the boys on their work, offering technical advice for improved practice and promises to send some of his piano music. In his second letter, dated 11 April 1950, Grainger writes to John and Richard, thanking them and their parents for all their lovely letters, and expressing his hope to see them in New York. These letters complement those from the Contiguglia family already in the Grainger Museum archives, which were shown to the brothers that afternoon. The donation also

includes a music list in Grainger's handwriting of piano pieces for the brothers to play, including the Delius *Dance rhapsody*, Debussy's *Printemps* suite, Cyril Scott's *Three symphonic dances*, a Mozart fugue, Grieg's *Norwegian dances* and Grainger's own *Children's march*.

This thoughtful donation made in person is a tangible example of Grainger's influence on the musical life of some of those whom he met and a welcome addition to the collection.

### Print matters at the Baillieu

#### Stephanie Sacco and Rebecca Edwards

The valuable holdings of the Baillieu Library Print Collection were celebrated in *Print matters at the Baillieu*, a day-long symposium held at the University of Melbourne on Saturday 3 September. The event was organised by Professor Jaynie Anderson of the Art History Department and Kerriane Stone, Special Collections Officer (Prints) in the University of Melbourne Library.

Considered to be one of the finest print collections in Australia, the Baillieu Library boasts approximately 8,000 works by some of the world's most significant printmakers including Rembrandt van Rijn, Albrecht Dürer and William Hogarth.



The event featured a number of eminent speakers including Jane Kinsman (a senior curator at the National Gallery of Australia), Daniel Thomas (former director of the Art Gallery of South Australia) and Professor Sasha Grishin (Sir William Dobell Professor of Art History, Australian National University) who delivered the keynote address. Other speakers included Professor Jaynie Anderson, Professor Charles Zika, Associate Professor Alison Inglis, Dr Jenny Spinks and Kim Clayton-Greene of the University of Melbourne; Dr Luke Morgan of Monash University; and Anita Angel (curator of the Charles Darwin University Art Collection and Art Gallery).

Speakers canvassed a rich variety of topics including the bequests of Dr J. Orde Poynton and Harold Wright, whose gifts now form the basis of the collection; some of the Baillieu Library's more precious prints and manuscripts; as well as broader discussions of printmaking and print collections in Australia. The day's proceedings concluded with a floor talk and tour of the Baillieu Library's current exhibition, *Write of fancy: The Golden Cockerel Press* by curator Kerriane Stone.

Approximately 100 people attended the event and were treated to a rare insight into the Baillieu Library's impressive print collection. A publication accompanying the symposium will be produced and available for purchase.

### New Medical History Museum curator

In September 2011 Dr Jacqueline Healy was appointed as curator of the Medical History Museum, following the move of Susie Shears to the position of Cultural Collections Coordinator. Dr Healy, who has extensive experience in the arts and museum sectors, comes to the university from Bundoora Homestead Art Centre, where she was the inaugural Director from 2002 to 2011. Previous positions include Director of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory in Darwin and Director of Public Programs at the National Gallery of Victoria. She is currently President of Cultural Tourism Victoria and until recently was President of the Public Galleries Association of Victoria. During a career in museum management she has been committed to increasing community involvement in museums and creating innovative programs. Her PhD examined the marketing

of Aboriginal art from remote area communities and she is an honorary research fellow in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies. She also has a Master of Business Administration from the Melbourne Business School.

The Medical History Museum is planning to further develop its links with the teaching program, academic community and general public. Future plans include relocating the museum and redevelopment of the website to increase accessibility to the collections and the exhibition program by the alumni, students and the general public. Next year (2012) is the 150th anniversary of the Melbourne Medical School. The extensive program of events will include an exhibition *A med student's life* at the Medical History Museum, bringing together material from the permanent collection and loans from alumni. The three museums in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences—the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum, Harry Brookes Allen Museum of Anatomy and Pathology and Medical History Museum—will jointly present an exhibition *The art of teaching: Models and methods*, to be complemented by *The anatomy lesson* at the Ian Potter Museum of Art.