

# Introduction

Kelly Gellatly

In this centenary year of the Anzac campaign early in World War I, many of us are contemplating the tragedy of war. Across Australia, people are staging exhibitions, publishing books and producing films that tell stories of individuals, families and communities affected by that terrible time of violence and loss. The University of Melbourne, whose students in the early 20th century were predominantly young men of military age, lost many promising minds to the conflict. But equally, many of the university's staff and graduates saved thousands of lives through their service as doctors, dentists, nurses, ambulance bearers and orderlies. The exhibition *Compassion and courage: Australian doctors and dentists in the Great War* recounts the experiences of some of these men and women and the dreadful wounds and illnesses they treated. This issue of *University of Melbourne Collections* highlights some of the stories of these medical and dental practitioners and their remarkable contributions to the war effort, which I am sure will inspire you to visit the exhibition to learn more.

However, even war and violence can bring new opportunities and hope. While serving on the Western Front, Melbourne-born painter John Trinick encountered ancient churches and monuments unlike anything he had seen at home. Cathy Mulcahy relates how this experience may have sparked in him a vocation as a stained glass artist, whose works now adorn a number of fine buildings in Britain. Trinick's archive and many of his designs are housed at the University of Melbourne, thanks to the foresight and generosity of his descendants.

If we are open to learning the lessons of history, past conflicts can teach us ways to achieve peace and reconciliation. The suffering caused by the deplorable regime of apartheid in South Africa was among the factors that inspired one generous benefactor, the late Dr Eddie Brownstein, to fund the purchase of library research materials and academic salaries to enable Australians to learn about, and from, this bitter period in the history of his homeland. Juliet Flesch records the many ways in which Dr Brownstein

contributed to the university, and to the community at large.

I trust that you will enjoy reading these and the other contributions to the latest issue of *University of Melbourne Collections* magazine.



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