On 25 September the Jubilee Committee wound up its accounts and forwarded to Council a recommendation that a "record of the Jubilee Celebrations together with a short history of the University be compiled for distribution to Universities and invited Guests". Council's response was favourable and chapter headings and estimates were drawn up. Spencer was to be the general editor of a history to be written by selected authors without fee; the Registrar the editor of a Jubilee record to be written by someone chosen by the committee. Two rounds of invitations to contribute to the history resulted in five definite acceptances (by John Monash, Ernest Robson, T. S. Hall, John Lang and Felix Meyer), insufficient for the project. No publications appeared, but a less ambitious record of the proceedings was produced. Letters, texts of some speeches and invitation lists were pasted in one volume and programs, invitations and other memorabilia in another, to be stored with the Committee's minutes and the congratulatory addresses. A selection of the last-mentioned was displayed during a University open day many years ago. Perhaps they will reappear during the University's Sesquicentenary. ▮

Cecily Close was the Acting University Archivist until her recent retirement.

EXPRESS YOURSELF

ART IN THE LIBRARY

provides exhibition space in the University Library for the work of serious contemporary and emerging artists.

For information on exhibiting contact the Art in the Library Coordinator on 9344 4743
http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/services/art/AITLHTM

GRAINGER ON PHOTOCD

BY Alessandro Servadei

O N 22 JUNE 1999, a presentation was given to the University Library staff about the many outcomes of the recent digitising project that took place at the Grainger Museum. This article is a brief synopsis of the entire project, which began in early 1998 and was delivered via the World Wide Web in February.

THE SOURCE MATERIAL: PERCY GRAINGER'S "LEGENDS"

When Percy Grainger visited his museum in Melbourne for the very last time in the mid-1950s, he decided that his visitor must be able to totally immerse themselves in his world. Without the advantage of today's computers or multimedia kiosks, Grainger created his Display Legends — large wall panel displays that used different media to help contextualise his life and that of his contemporaries. Each of the 34 in the collection is on a separate topic and has a title (the lettering of Grainger's own design) at the top of the display, such as "Cyril Scott, Musical Originator" or "A. E. Aldis, Painter & Linguist". The actual content consists of a short, typewritten essay or commentary by Grainger on the topic, as well as a variety of visual materials — often a combination of drawings, photographs, letters, music, concert programs and copies of manuscripts.

Grainger fixed the documentary and visual material to each display with pins or glue. This was then covered with a sheet of glass, cut to size and surrounded by a frame attached with nails. The frames were either left unpainted or were painted in what Grainger considered to be "Saxon and Scandinavian" colours — sky blue, scarlet, yellow or bright green.

The problem: decades of exposure to the sun's ultra-violet rays have taken
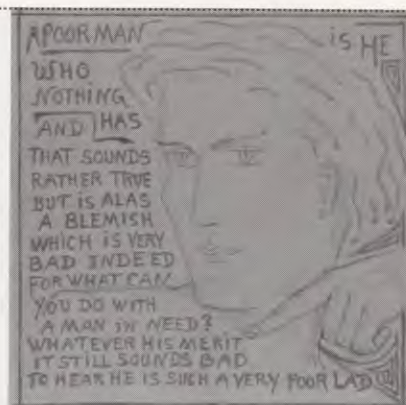
Rime-tile design for "Poor Man" (undated) by Ella Grainger. Drawn with china paints on the glazed surface and re-fired. Actual size: 6" x 6". (Grainger Museum Collection.)

their toll on the Legends' contents, from peeling adhesive to fading photographs.

A DIGITISING GRANT AND RESTORATION

A recent (and generous) grant from the University Library, provided the Grainger Museum with the necessary funds not only to restore these valuable objects, but then to photograph and store them in a more permanent, digital form. The staff of the nearby Ian Potter Conservation Centre, in particular Robyn Sloggett and Rosemary Freemantle, lent their paper conservation expertise to the project and then had the Legends delivered to the University's Multimedia Unit for a session in the photographic studio. The sheer size of the Legends (ranging from a typical A3 size to beyond A2) meant that, in some cases, items within the Legends themselves required individual photographs.

Although funding did not permit all objects to be so photographed, most of the remaining objects can be scanned from copies elsewhere in the collection. Grainger, of course, always ensured there were copies of almost anything in case of the unthinkable.

ENTER THE PHOTOCD

Once the Legends were in photographic form, it was possible to have them
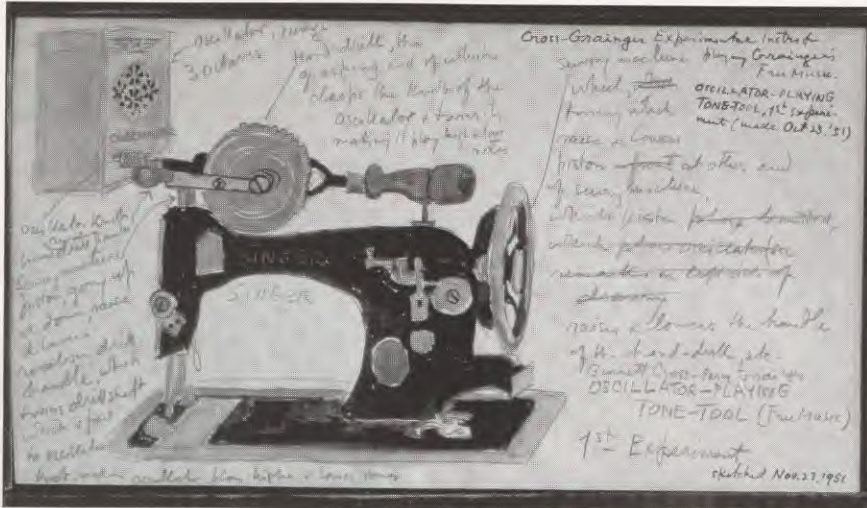
Percy Grainger, Legend, a "Free Music" watercolour of "Oscillator Playing Tone-Tool, 1st Experiment", 1951. (Grainger Museum Collection.)

digitised for posterity. After considering various formats, it was decided that PhotoCD was the most viable and accessible for the immediate future.

PhotoCD as a format is not new; in fact Kodak developed the technology back in the early 1990s as a means of digitally storing photographic quality images on otherwise ordinary compact discs. Essentially, one delivers 35mm negatives to Kodak, which are then scanned at high resolution and then placed on a CD. Each CD can contain approximately 100 images, each available at several levels of quality — from film to "thumbnail" (ideal for internet and World Wide Web usage). Cross platform capability enables both PC and Macintosh computers to access the images from the one CD.

DELIVERY ON THE INTERNET

Having Grainger images on PhotoCD are useful for in-house use and for the media.* But what about public access? The Museum's already comprehensive Website was decided upon as the most immediate way for the general public to explore this otherwise inaccessible material. And the result — a selection of Legends whose contents can be

(*The Legend illustrations in this article were sourced from the PhotoCD. Ed.)

examined and zoomed into at the click of a mouse. Combine this with transcribed captions and textual content, and you have the kind of multimedia experience Grainger wanted nearly half a century ago.

Provided your Web browser can cope with "image maps" (Netscape or Internet Explorer from version 3 upwards should be fine), the Legends are available now <via: http://www.lib. unimelb.edu.au/collections/grainger/ legends/legends.html>

OTHER DIGITISING PROJECTS

One hundred of Grainger's artworks, including his early sketchbooks and the complete Free Music drawings, have also been transferred to the PhotoCD format. As these were much smaller objects than the Legends, the captured detail is marvellous! You can find a generous selection of these on the internet via: <http://www.lib.unimelb.edu. au/collections/grainger/artworks/art-works.html> along with an essay on Grainger's art by the museum's consultant curator, Elinor Wrobel — previously only available in the 1996 Grainger Museum Exhibition Catalogue. Surf and enjoy! ∎

Alessandro Servadei is Assistant Curator of the Grainger Museum.