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ALTHOUGH BETTER KNOWN FOR HIS EARLIER JOURNEYS ACROSS THE ‘AUSTRALIA FELIX’ OF WESTERN VICTORIA, EXPLORER-SURVEYOR THOMAS LIVINGSTONE MITCHELL JOURNEYED INTO WHAT IS NOW CENTRAL QUEENSLAND IN 1846. THE JOURNAL OF THIS EXPEDITION, PUBLISHED IN TWO VOLUMES TWO YEARS LATER, IS EXAMINED HERE BY QUEENSLAND HISTORIAN ROSS JOHNSTON. THE JOURNAL REMAINS AN IMPORTANT ACCOUNT OF EARLY EUROPEAN EXPLORATION OF QUEENSLAND AND IS A VALUABLE ITEM IN THE FRYER COLLECTION.

Surveyor-General for the colony of New South Wales since 1828, Mitchell was an erudite man of taste and culture who had studied towards an Arts degree for at least two years at Edinburgh University. He read widely in foreign languages, sprinkling his Journal with quotations from Robbie Burns, Shakespeare, Milton and Ovid (in Latin). One authority on Mitchell calls him ‘the civilised surveyor’.2 Another of Mitchell’s interests was landscape painting in which he was instructed by the important English Romantic painter, John Martin. The impact on him can be seen both in his naming discoveries after painters – the J Martin Range, the Claude River (named after the French painter Claude Lorrain), the Salvator River (honouring Salvator Rosa, the Italian painter) – and in the picturesque and painterly manner in which he describes scenes on the expedition:

The hills overhanging it [the river] surpassed any I had ever seen in picturesque outline. Some resembled gothic cathedrals in ruins; others forts; other masses were perforated, and being mixed and contrasted with the flowing outlines of evergreen woods, and having a fine stream in the foreground, gave a charming appearance to the whole country. It was a discovery worthy of the toils of a pilgrimage.³

Mitchell acknowledged and honoured many European figures of note in his naming of newly-discovered topographic features. Indeed, Mitchell was a master at networking, making and using important connections so patrons, promoters, supporters and experts (including scientists) had their names attached to mountains, rivers and other geographical markers – people such as the eminent botanist Sir William Hooker (a mountain) or the scientist Michael Faraday (a mountain also, in this region). Mt Mudge was named after the colonel who in the army taught Mitchell the use of the Syphon barometer.⁴

Military and imperial affairs also influenced his naming process. Perhaps the most unctuous example of this came on 1 October 1846, as he followed a river to the north-west, a water-course which he believed and hoped would flow eventually in a northerly direction into the Gulf of Carpentaria.

This river seemed to me typical of God’s providence, in conveying living waters into a dry parched land, and thus affording access to open and extensive pastoral regions, likely to be soon peopled by civilised inhabitants. It was with sentiments of devotion, zeal, and loyalty, that I therefore gave to this river the name of my gracious sovereign, Queen Victoria.⁵
Mitchell's imperial vision was mistaken, however. In 1847-48 Edmund Kennedy established that the river flowed to the south-west, into the dry interior. He renamed it the Barcoo. Mitchell, however, was not wedded to European nomenclature; he has influenced toponymy considerably in Australia through his advocacy of Aboriginal place names. He lamented 'the uselessness of new names', and defended 'the necessity for preserving the native names of Rivers'. He would go in deliberate search of a local person to communicate about the native name. While this was not always possible, names he recorded on his maps such as Mount Bigando and the Belyando River came from local sources.

The journal of an expedition also helps us to examine some of the controversies that surrounded Mitchell. An early biographer adverted to his ‘pursuit of fame’, his ‘obstinancy and petulance’, his ‘persistent defiance of successive governors’ and sustained conflicts with the Colonial Office; noting that he ‘never doubted’ his superiority. Don Baker refers to his self-righteousness, and categorises Mitchell as ‘a poor administrator’. Certainly there were difficulties and dissatisfaction in the Survey Department which he headed. Yet on exploring expeditions he was an efficient leader heading a successful team effort.

One must be aware of his military experience and bearing; there are more than shades of the martinet. He had served in the Peninsular War 1811-14 where he gained favour from his commanding officer, Sir George Murray. Mitchell ran his expeditions as he would a ‘civil’ military campaign; he planned well; he controlled the provision of rations, forage, water, transport for his men and stock; he took steps to defend his camps from Aboriginal attack.

Certainly the men on this, his fourth exploration, seem to have had respect for and trust in him. His party, twenty-nine strong, included twenty-three convicts, several of whom had served on previous expeditions. The tent-keeper had been on Mitchell's three previous expeditions. Two others (the storekeeper and the barometer carrier) had been with him on the third expedition, while another (in charge of horses) had been on the second expedition. Mitchell preferred convicts to free men for the many manual tasks involved; he found it easier to demand obedience and discipline from them – with the promise of relief from their punishment upon the successful completion of the journey. On this expedition Mitchell had disciplinary problems with six of the convicts, but most of them behaved well.

A second debate concerns the accuracy and veracity of Mitchell's reports and drawings. Don Baker opines that Mitchell was 'perhaps the best draftsman in the British army'.

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At school Mitchell was keen on drawing – ‘to convey accurate information’.13 In the Spanish military campaign Mitchell’s main task was surveying; this is where he learned his craft. Sir George Murray was sufficiently impressed later to charge Mitchell to complete plans and maps of the principal movements, battles and sieges of that war. These Mitchell published in 1841.14 Mitchell’s competency and accuracy as a surveyor and map-maker are generally acknowledged; yet a study by Brian Finlayson, employing recent scientific analyses and aerial surveys, seriously questions this reputation for accuracy, claiming that Mitchell is ‘not a reliable factual witness’ of the pre-European environment in Australia.15 Finlayson’s is a detailed study of Lake Salvator which Mitchell ‘found’ on 7 July 1846. The party spent some days at this large feature, recording various descriptions. Finlayson concludes that Mitchell has invented a myth about the existence of this lake. There never was one; at the most it was a swamp or a braided stream. Finlayson speculates that Mitchell set out deliberately to deceive – embellishing discoveries so as to enhance his reputation as an explorer. Similarly, Mitchell’s biographer Cumpston is ready to see deceit in Mitchell’s actions, claiming Mitchell rushed to London in 1847 to get his journal published quickly and so establish his fame. ‘Mitchell makes no reference to the fact that Kennedy had completely disproved his claim that the Barcoo [Mitchell’s Victoria River] would ultimately discharge into the Gulf of Carpentaria’.16 This is a harsh and unfair judgement; Kennedy did not return to Sydney from his journey along the Barcoo (having established that it flowed south-west into the dry interior) until 8 February 1848. Mitchell’s Journal was already in press in London, appearing between 19 and 26 February of that year.

Mitchell was busy preparing his manuscript for publication during 1847. He had already published in two volumes an account of his 1831, 1835 and 1836 expeditions.17 That publication had been well-received and had enhanced his reputation. This fourth journey, however, had been beset by problems, especially administrative delays. Since 1831 Mitchell had wanted to ‘discover’ northern Australia. Initially interest focused on establishing an overland route to Port Essington (in the Northern Territory). In 1843 Mitchell proposed this fourth journey – the overland route via a northerly-flowing river to the Gulf of Carpentaria.19 That would establish the shortest route to India and the East and enable trade. He was disappointed when traveling down the Belyando to find it flowing towards the Pacific Ocean and not the Gulf. He then chose a westerly-flowing stream, to a point where on 15 September he could exclaim:

I found then, at last, the realisation of my long cherished hopes, an interior river falling to the N.W. in the heart of an open country extending also in that direction. From that rock, the scene was so extensive as to leave no room for doubt as to the course of the river, which, thus and there revealed to me alone, seemed like a direct reward from Heaven for perseverance, and as a compensation for the many sacrifices I had made, in order to solve the question as to the interior rivers of Tropical Australia.20

Explorers need to work to a hunch, on inspiration, by assumption, with a hypothesis. In this case, Mitchell was deceived. Anxious to return home from a long, hard trip, and running short of food, he saw a northerly-flowing stream through the trees, and assumed/wanted his hopes to be fulfilled. If he had continued further he would have found that this was not the main river but a branch, and that the river turned to the west and south.21

He did not know his mistake when he arrived in London in late July 1847, with ten boxes containing mainly botanical specimens and maps.22 He set to preparing the manuscript for publication. The specimens had been collected by Mitchell himself as well as other members of the party, and especially Dr W Stephenson, the surgeon and collector. At Mantuan Downs Mitchell had recorded: ‘we found a plateau of flowering shrubs, chiefly new and strange, so that Mr. Stephenson was soon loaded like a market gardener’.23 Numbers of new species were located. At Fitzroy Downs he was intrigued by ‘trees of very droll form ... The trunk bulged out in the middle like a barrel’. These were bottle trees (see illustration p. 6) which he named Delabechea, after Sir Henry T De La Beche, president of the Horticultural Society.24

Baker argues that Mitchell did not learn from the Aborigines how to live off the land.25 Occasionally they tried local plants – such as a wild carrot, a native cucumber, and a large pea (that gave the...
men diarrhoea – ‘violent vomiting and purging’). Mitchell did, however, supplement the regular diet of mutton (the party started out with 250 live sheep) and flour with game shot – such as emu, pigeon and turkey (such ‘delicious flesh’).26 Mitchell used his connections with scientists who could identify, classify and describe the many discoveries. This was a time of scientific imperialism, when western scientists were wanting to classify (and claim) the unknown world. His experts included Sir William Hooker, Director of Kew Gardens; Dr John Lindley who held the Chair of Botany at the University of London; George Bentham who had been secretary to the Horticultural Society.27 These three prepared a detailed report on over 600 plants, which Mitchell had to interpolate into his account of the expedition, with Latin inscriptions, at the appropriate place. He also sought help from other specialists, such as Professor WH de Vriese, a Dutch botanist and WS Macleay, the Australian naturalist. Mitchell was fascinated with fossils; he found remains near the Pyramids depot and at Mt Sowerby.28 For scientific verification of them he turned to Professor Sir Richard Owen, Edward Forbes and William Ogilby. Meanwhile, Mitchell was preparing his maps. Five covering the journey were drawn and reduced by Mitchell, two more were general.

Mitchell had hoped the House of John Murray would publish his account but it declined because Leichhardt’s journal was about to appear.29 Longman, Brown, Green and Longmans picked up the job and the book was ready for sale by late February 1848. It was not as successful as his earlier Three expeditions receiving mixed reviews. Kerry Heckenberg suggests this occurred because the genre of travel books (with which explorers’ journals were grouped) was changing.30 The frequent Latin interpolations made Mitchell’s Journal a mix of scientific information and entertainment, at a time when the reading public was beginning to ask for one or the other.

In seeking to unlock to western eyes the interior of northern Australia, Mitchell well knew that he was preparing the way for colonisation and settlement.31 Thus he wanted (and needed) to find and to describe broad fertile pastoral expanses. His writing fluency allowed him to encapsulate such visions and dreams. His Journal is still valuable on two main grounds. One is his environmental, topographic observations – he provides the first written account of parts of Australia, albeit sometimes inaccurate and often embellished. In this article I have concentrated on this aspect of his writing, especially in relation to the central highlands of Queensland. I take an extended sense of ‘environment’ to encompass surveying, mapping and artistic interpretation, as well as topography, botany and allied scientific studies. The other value of the Journal is Mitchell’s descriptions of the different Aboriginal groups he encountered – their lifestyles, behaviour, housing, food, culture generally. This is a separate study.32

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14. TL Mitchell et al., Maps and plans, showing the principal movements, battles, and sieges, in which the British Army was engaged during the War from 1808 to 1814, in the Spanish Peninsula and the south of France. James Wyld, London, 1841.
17. TL Mitchell, Three expeditions into the interior of eastern Australia, with descriptions of the recently explored regions of Australia Felix, and the present colony of New South Wales, 2 vols., T & W Boone, London, 1838.
18. Foster, p. 372.
29. Foster, p. 412.
30. Heckenberg, p. 256.
32. Baker, The civilised surveyor, gives an overview of this subject.
Exactly a decade after the Spanish first arrived in Cuzco, the capital of the Inca Empire, an Inca princess and a captain of the Spanish Army had a love child. The boy, who later in life adopted the name Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, was born in 1539. Although he was raised as a devout Catholic (he attended the local school to learn Spanish and some Latin), he also knew the Inca language and world very well because his mother’s relatives would pay weekly visits to his house and narrate stories about the Inca Empire, its legends, its military feats, and its mythology. This periodic retelling was, at the time, the only way of preserving the recently fallen empire’s oral traditions and stories.¹

Both the boy’s learning of Spanish and his exposure to these stories would prove crucial in subsequent stages of his life. After turning twenty he moved to Spain to join the Army, but even though he attained the rank of Captain, he soon gave up military life to become a humanist scholar. Two factors influenced this decision: the first was the death of paternal relatives, who left their nephew generous bequests. This enabled Garcilaso to live comfortably and buy a few hundred books, which was no small accomplishment in the early seventeenth century. The second was his evident talent as a writer and man of letters. He first came to notice amongst his contemporaries for his Spanish translation of Dialoghi d’amore, by neo-Platonist philosopher Judah Leon Abravanel, and has since been consistently recognised by critics for this and his other works. Garcilaso has been called everything from a classic Spanish author to the first Latin-American writer² – particularly for the widely published and translated Comentarios reales and the Historia general del Peru, a first edition copy of which can be consulted at the Fryer Library after donning the requisite white gloves.

The Historia general is a monumental work of humanist scholarship, and is the second part of what he conceived as a unified work. Garcilaso sets out to prove that the Incas were not a
barbarous people by explaining their history, diplomacy and medicine, by describing the many riches of the Peruvian land, and by comparing Cuzco with ancient Rome: ‘Cuzco in relation to its empire was like Rome to the Roman empire, and the two can be compared because they resembled one another in their nobler aspects.’  

A catalogue of his books made shortly after his death confirms what is evident from the text: Garcilaso had read and was deeply influenced by Hesiod’s and Ovid’s theory of the three ages of man, which he adapted to tell the story of the rise and fall of the Inca Empire. To him, the Incas had been a source of light, justice, and civilisation for the peoples they had conquered, but their mighty empire could only be turned from a ‘jungle of gentility and idolatry, to Christ’s paradise’ after being converted to Christianity.

Such is the story that occupies Garcilaso for the better part of the Historia general del Peru. The book describes the feats of the small group of Spaniards who defeated the vast Inca Empire, and the many hardships they endured in the course of that undertaking. Garcilaso also describes the civil wars that eventually destroyed the unity of the Empire, and ends his history with the Spanish Viceroy’s public execution of the last Inca ruler, Tupac Amaru, in 1572. His narrative closely follows humanist models that conceived of history as a teaching tool, rather than as a means to accurately render the events of the past, which is closer to how present-day historians conceive of their task. During the Renaissance, historical accounts were expected to illustrate the moral lessons of the narrated events. In order to do so, stories had to follow the ordo temporum, or chronological order, so as to draw out the causes – including the reasons that moved a person to act in a certain way – and the effects of the narrated events. Such an approach produces a historical account that, to modern readers, may seem opinionated and partial:

Francisco Pizarro and his thirteen companions remained many months on the Island of the Gorgona, suffering great privations, without house or tent to shelter them in a land where it rains perpetually. The best food they ate and their greatest delicacy were large snakes; they seem to have survived by a miracle, and we might say that God sustained them, so as to show … that so great a thing was the work of God and not of man, for it was not humanly possible for thirteen men alone to dare to undertake the conquest of Peru. Even to imagine it was temerity and folly, let alone to attempt to undertake it. But the divine mercy had compassion on those poor heathens and gave the Spaniards a special courage.

The Historia general also offers much for those with an interest in the history of books and printing. It is set in two columns and printed without illustrations save for a frontispiece with an image of the Virgin Mary. The book consists of forty-nine octavo (19 x 28 cm) gatherings numbered by leaf rather than by page. The Fryer copy belonged to Colonel Charles George Gray, who was a police magistrate in Ipswich before being appointed Parliamentary Librarian and Usher of the Black Rod in the first Queensland Parliament in 1859. The book has been rebound in vellum after, according to the family legend, a dog bit into it. Fortunately this did not cause any severe damage.

The preliminaries to the Historia general include the printing licences from three different censors and King Philip III, who authorises the book to be printed only by the author or a printer of his choosing, for a period of ten years, after which time anyone could print the book. The king’s licence follows a 1558 law that commanded printers to print a single copy of all the gatherings of the first book save for the first, and have this audited by a royal notary who certified that the printed edition corresponded to the text authorised by the king and the Inquisition’s censors. This certificate, the errata, and the tassa (the fixed price at which the book must be sold) make up the last pages of the first gathering, which would be printed last, and then bound with the rest of the gatherings.
At the time the book was printed, in 1617, the Spanish Inquisition was still at the height of its powers and strictly regulating book production. Censorship aimed to ensure that a book did not contravene religious doctrine or offend ‘good custom.’ The censors did not, however, stop at certifying doctrinal purity, but made extensive remarks on its aesthetic qualities. Thus, censor Francisco de Castro notes:

I judge the story is very agreeable, because it is about things great, new, admirable, and of great honour to our nation. It is very concise, because it does not contain digressions, or superfluous words, or excessive reasoning. It is very clear, because it is told in chronological order, without confounding the people it is about, or equivocating its meaning. It is very truthful, because the author is himself, and so he seems in his style, trustworthy and free of all passions.10

These licences are something of a curiosity, because since the eighteenth century at least, such praise for the literary worth of a book has been considered the domain of critics rather than of the government. Both the preliminaries and the book itself are written in seventeenth-century Spanish, which does not differ from modern varieties of the language other than in a few spelling conventions. In fact, it is the same language as that used in Don Quixote, which appeared only two years before the Historia general del Peru. Readers familiar with Cervantes’s prose should pay a visit to the Fryer Library to read the only first edition of Garcilaso’s work available in Australian libraries.

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2. Given his deliberate goal of connecting the European Renaissance with the emerging New World by endowing the Inca past with the dignity of the classical tradition, it has been theorised that Inca was the first ‘Latin-American’ in a strict sense. T Hampe Martínez. ‘El renacentismo del Inca Garcilaso revisitado: los clásicos greco-latinos en su biblioteca y en su obra.’ Bibliothèque d’Humanisme et Renaissance, vol. 56, no. 3, 1994, p. 641.
4. I Garcilaso de la Vega. Historia general del Peru: trata el descubrimiento del, y como lo ganaron los Españoles, las guerras cuyas que huyo entre Picaros y Almagros sobre la partia de la tierra, castigo y levantamiento de branos y otros sucesos particulares que en la historia se contienen. Por la viuda de Andres Barrera, Cordoua, 1617, 2 verso b.
7. According to Amparo García Cuadrado, the rationale for the ten-year ‘copyright’ period was that, by the time the period had lapsed, the printer would have recovered the cost of printing and buying the rights from the author. ‘Aproximación a los criterios legales en materia de imprenta durante la edad moderna en España.’ Revista General de Información y Documentación, vol. 6, no. 2, 1996, p. 128. The business of publishing was conducted differently throughout Europe, but it is worth noting that Lucia de Lestie, the woman who ran the workshop where the Historia general was printed, paid Garcilaso for the exclusive rights to print his work. See MJ Porro-Herrera. ‘Imprenta y lectura en Córdoba (1556-1900)’ Arbor, vol. 168, no. 654, 2000, p. 256.
8. On the verso of page 8 we learn that the book cost 624 maravedíes. This was about ten days’ salary for a surgeon, or seven days’ salary for an experienced apprentice at an armoury. I Carrión Arregui. ‘El trabajo en una manufactura real del siglo XVII: los armeros de la Armería de Toloza.’ Vasconia, vol. 30, 2000, p. 73-82.
10. Ibid, 2 recto.
The University of Queensland Library has produced a book that presents one hundred items from the Fryer Library, to celebrate the Centenary of the University this year. *Found in Fryer: stories from the Fryer Library collection*, was launched by the Honourable Dr Peter Beattie (pictured left) at the St Lucia Campus on Tuesday 30 November 2010.

Around 130 guests gathered together in The Hive, on Level One of the Social Sciences and Humanities Library to celebrate the achievement.

Peter Beattie is an alumnus of the University, with UQ degrees in Arts and Law. The University recently made him Adjunct Professor in both the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, and the Institute for Molecular Bioscience. He is both a friend of the Fryer Library and one of the book’s contributing authors. Peter has donated his papers to Fryer Library and in his speech, encouraged others to do the same. He paid tribute to the breadth of the collections and emphasised the importance of areas of strength such as political ephemera and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander materials – two areas represented in *Found in Fryer*.

Also at the event there was an unveiling of a bronze portrait of Dr FW Robinson (“Doc Robbie”), based on a model by sculptor Daphne Mayo. The bronze was the work of UQ Alumnus and University Sculptor, Dr Rhyl Hinwood. It will be located in the FW Robinson Reading Room in the Fryer Library. Dr Hinwood and members of the Robinson family were present at the event. Mrs Jill Johns (pictured top right), daughter of FW Robinson, unveiled the bronze and shared memories of the small collection in her father’s office, acquired with student donations, which provided the genesis of the Fryer Library.
From its very inception Fryer Library has benefited from benefactions from students – present and past. It was in fact founded on one such donation – £10 from the UQ Dramatic Society in 1926. Past purchases of valuable literary manuscript collections, fine and rare books and other resources have been underwritten by large donations by the Alumni Friends of The University of Queensland Inc. More than just making a financial contribution, the Alumni and its members have been instrumental in building Fryer’s collections and resources, particularly in the field of Australiana, through a range of other endeavours: the active pursuit of manuscript collections in the field; the building of links with the public and potential donors; volunteer work and the Book Fair.

Formally constituted in May 1967 the Alumni Association (as it was then known) was not conceived primarily as a fund-raising body. Rather its role was ‘to foster mutually beneficial relations’ between UQ graduates and the University itself.¹ Nonetheless assistance to the Library in general, and to Fryer in particular became, according to the Association’s historian, ‘one of the Association’s most significant contributions to the University’.²

From the Association’s inception, donations began to roll in, notably Mrs Hilda Brotherton’s memoir and photographs of her time at UQ, donated in September 1968. Alumni also funded the purchase of Captain Cook’s florilegium, a limited edition reprint of a selection of engravings from the drawings by Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander on Cook’s first voyage to the Pacific.

Two Alumni events in 1971 sparked further interest and Fryer benefited, both in terms of the acquisition of resources and in the raising of its community profile. A reunion of graduates from 1911 to 1939 was held over the weekend of 21-23 May. Members of the reunion group, many of them ‘first evers’, supplied material for the extensive historical display that was mounted. After a request from then Fryer Librarian, Nancy Bonnin, many of these contributions became part of the Fryer collection. The Association established a Library Assistance Sub-Committee to formalise relations and subsequently established a Fryer Library Assistance Fund to support Fryer purchases. A lecture by Sydney-based bibliophile and rare-book collector Walter Stone was sponsored in October of that year. Stone’s lecture attracted considerable media attention and even more donations. Continued page 14

Above: Derek Fielding, University Librarian, receiving Dick Roughsey’s papers from Len Fisher at opening of the Central Library, University of Queensland, Brisbane, 1973. UQFL466 University of Queensland photograph collection
JOHN BLIGHT

In 1985 the Association acquired the papers of poet John Blight with the assistance of the Association in 1985. Comprising more than 800 letters, manuscripts of over 4000 poems, as well as scrapbooks and books, this acquisition considerably enhanced Fryer Library’s existing holdings of John Blight papers. The gift was presented by the president of the Association, Mr Blair Wilson, at a ceremony which also launched John Blight’s *Holiday sea sonnets* (UQP).

John Blight was born in South Australia, but spent most of his life in Queensland. He was best known as a poet of the sea, and was described by David Malouf as ‘the most interesting and original poet of his generation’. He won a number of awards, including the Dame Mary Gilmore Award (1965), the Patrick White Award (1976), and the Grace Leven Poetry Prize (1976) for *Selected poems, 1939-1975*.

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THEA ASTLEY

The Thea Astley papers in Fryer Library constitute one of the library’s most significant literary collections. They represent all aspects of the career of this Brisbane-born writer, who published 16 novels and won the prestigious Miles Franklin award four times. The collection was built up in Fryer Library over several years, starting in 1983. In 2007, three years after Thea Astley’s death, the support of the Alumni Association made it possible for the Library to acquire four large cartons of papers from Thea Astley’s son.

Included in the papers received in 2007 are correspondence (including letters from Patrick White), diaries, literary awards, and several manuscript drafts of her novel *Drylands*. *Drylands* won the Miles Franklin award in 2000, as well as Best Fiction Book in the Queensland Premier’s Literary Awards in the same year.

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JACK LINDSAY

In 1975 Fedora Fisher, on behalf of the Alumni Association, visited Jack Lindsay in the UK. He gave her two rare books for the Fryer Library. Both limited editions from Lindsay’s Fanfrolico Press contain illustrations by Jack Lindsay’s father, Norman Lindsay. *Propertius in love* (1927) is translated from the Latin by Jack Lindsay, and *A homage to Sappho* (1928) is translated from Greek.

Prolific author Jack Lindsay was an alumnus of The University of Queensland, graduating from UQ with first class honours in 1921.

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Janette Turner Hospital

The Library is proud to hold a collection of forty-two boxes of manuscripts, comprising literary drafts and proofs, correspondence, and notes, from acclaimed author Janette Turner Hospital. In 1999 the Association supported the purchase of manuscript drafts of *The ivory swing*. This was Ms Turner Hospital’s first published novel and was awarded the prestigious Canadian Seal First Novel Award in 1982.

Janette Turner Hospital is a graduate of The University of Queensland and in 2003 was awarded an honorary doctorate from this university.

Donald Friend

One of Fryer Library’s most prized manuscript collections, the papers of David Malouf, began with a gift from the Association. In 1984 it funded the acquisition of the manuscripts of two early novellas by David Malouf, *Child’s play* (1981) and *Fly away Peter* (originally published as *The bread of time to come with Child’s play*). Both these novellas won literary awards. David Malouf, in a letter published in *Alumni News* August 1984, wrote, “I want especially to say how very pleased I am that two manuscripts of mine now find a place in the Fryer Library and to thank the Alumni … for making this possible. I have the warmest memories and a great affection for the Fryer.”

David Malouf

It was appropriate that two limited edition works by Donald Friend be purchased for this collection. In 1982 Len Fisher’s wife, Fedora, travelled to Bali to meet artist Donald Friend and accept from him on behalf of Fryer Library the manuscripts of two of his books (Save me from the shark and *Donald Friend in Bali*). These formed the basis of the Donald Friend manuscript collection in Fryer.

LEN FISHER MEMORIAL COLLECTION


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THE COMPLETE ETCHINGS OF NORMAN LINDSAY

The complete etchings of Norman Lindsay (1998) was compiled by Lin Bloomfield and published by Odana Editions in a limited edition of 550 copies.

The edition has been described as ‘the definitive book on Lindsay’s etchings’. Norman Lindsay (1879–1969) created some of the finest intaglio prints of the 20th century.

This edition is fully illustrated with detailed text that covers gallery and exhibition information and an analysis of Lindsay’s etching technique.

JANETTE TURNER HOSPITAL

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2. Ibid, p. 33.


Above: Presentation of books to the Fryer Library, University of Queensland, Brisbane. The books were the first donation from the Mary Alexis Macmillan Memorial Fund. Left to right: Mrs Audrey Jorss, Memorial fund. Left to Mary alexis Macmillan first donation from the Library, university of Queensland Fryer Library is named. Fryer after whom the library is named. UQFL466 University of Queensland photograph collection.

Continued from page 11

At the centre of this whirlwind of organising activity was the Association’s President at the time (1971-74), Len Fisher and his wife Fedora. The Fishers displayed an enthusiasm and energy for building Fryer’s collections which has left a lasting legacy. Fisher, a retired engineer and businessman, had played a major role in the organisation of the reunion event of 1971. He and his wife became popular ambassadors for the Library. Their zeal ensured the acquisition of such treasures as handwritten notebooks from Donald Friend acquired in Bali and valuable and rare first editions by Jack Lindsay donated in the wake of a visit from the Fishers to his home in Essex, England. Fedora produced engaging accounts of their collecting adventures for Alumni News, the Association’s regular journal.3

Len Fisher delivered his talk ‘Out of the tin trunk and onto the Fryer’ to Rotary and other community groups across south-east Queensland. It was through Fedora’s connection that Fryer acquired the Sir Raphael and Lady Cilento collections – a vast and rich trove of material on Queensland’s medical history and other topics. Fedora had been active in assisting the Cilentos in sorting and cleaning their books and papers after the 1974 Brisbane flood. In thanks, the Cilentos passed the collection on to Fryer. The active field work performed by the Fishers in making community connections, building relationships and acquiring material has proved invaluable. The acquisition of private papers and documents in art, literature and history – the raw material for researchers of the future, was even more important than the purchase or rare and valuable books. As well as the material noted above, the Fishers also played a major role in the acquisition of the papers of art gallery director John Cooper, pioneering pastoral family the McConnels; former Premier of Queensland Robert Philp; artists and authors Percy Trezise and Dick Roughsey and prominent and controversial Australian literary figure PR ‘Inky’ Stephensen to name a few.

Len Fisher’s enthusiasm for Fryer did not wane with his moving on from the alumni presidency. Throughout the 1980s, Fryer benefitted from another Alumni initiative. The highly successful book fairs (begun in 1979) meant that the Association acquired large numbers of books, some of which were items of Australiana which Fryer did not hold. The Association has generously allowed Fryer ‘first dibs’ on this material and many valuable items have entered the Fryer collection through this means.

For many years too, Alumni members were directly involved in volunteer work in Fryer, applying their various and often extensive skills to some of the detailed work required to maintain and give access to the collection.

In recent times Fryer has relied heavily on the generous support of the Alumni Association to acquire some of the literary collections for which the Library is known. Such collections might be offered for sale by their owners – frequently through the writer’s literary agents or executors. Libraries like Fryer compete in the open market place for such treasures. Notice of their availability is often short and the price usually high. The funding for such purchases falls well outside the regular library book budget. Fryer was able to acquire rich collections of material relating to the novelists Janette Turner Hospital and Thea Astley, and the poet Gwen Harwood. These purchases were only possible through Alumni funding.

In the March 1976 issue of Alumni News it was acknowledged that “The Fryer Library has a special place in the hearts of Alumni.”4 There can be little doubt that Fryer has benefitted enormously from the Alumni’s support in the past and will continue to rely on that support into the future.
Gwen Harwood

The most recent gift from the Alumni Association to Fryer Library was an important addition to the Gwen Harwood collection. This collection from the multi-award-winning Brisbane-born poet includes correspondence, manuscript drafts, photographs and other material. It has been built up since the 1970s. In 2009 a particularly rich collection of Gwen Harwood papers, including scrapbooks and diaries, became available.

The Australian Flower Paintings of Ferdinand Bauer

In 2006, the Alumni Association purchased for the library The Australian flower paintings of Ferdinand Bauer (London: Basilisk Press, 1976). This very large volume contains a selection of full size colour facsimiles of drawings made by Ferdinand Bauer, the artist who sailed with Matthew Flinders on his first circumnavigation of Australia in 1801. Bauer’s contemporary, Goethe, wrote of the flower paintings, “It is a real joy to look at these plates, for Nature is visible, Art concealed”.

Captain Cook’s Florilegium

This rare book was produced for The Royal College of Art in London as a limited edition of only 100 copies. It includes thirty engravings never before published and printed by hand from the actual plates prepared directly after Captain Cook’s first voyage. A generous donation by the Alumni Association in 1969 made possible the purchase of this book.

Thomas Shapcott

In 1985, the 75th anniversary year of The University of Queensland, the Alumni Association donated to Fryer a significant addition to the Thomas Shapcott collection. Queensland-born Thomas Shapcott is one of Australia’s foremost poets. He has had a long association with UQ, including several years as poetry editor of the University of Queensland Press. In 2009 Professor Emeritus Shapcott was awarded a Doctorate of Letters honoris causa by The University of Queensland.

The Shapcott collection in Fryer Library now comprises sixty-five boxes of papers including literary manuscript drafts and correspondence. The material donated by the Alumni Association in 1985 included numerous drafts of poems, handwritten and typescript, as well as travel diaries from the 1970s and 1980s.
The AA illustrated guide to Britain tells us that Eyam in north Derbyshire has a sad historical importance; the village was devastated in 1665-6, a box of infected clothes brought the Plague there. Under the leadership of their rector, William Mompesson, the villagers cut themselves off from the world to stop the disease spreading. Five out of every six inhabitants died. The courage of Mompesson and his parishioners is commemorated every year by an open-air service held on the last Sunday in August. A number of plague houses survive.1

One can still see the houses from the plague years and visit the church with the register of burials, including that of the rector’s wife. One could not but be moved, indeed overwhelmed, by imagining the circumstances in the village nearly 350 years previously – the community decision to quarantine themselves, the placement of the ‘cordon sanitaire’, the arrangement for delivery and payment of food supplies, the conduct of church services in the open-air, the disposal of the bodies. These were some of the responses in trying to deal with the plague, an infectious condition with an unknown cause. (It should be noted that the first time that a microorganism was shown to cause a specific infectious disease was not until more than 200 years after this outbreak in Eyam).

With my professional appetite whetted by a brief visit to Eyam in 2007, I returned home determined to learn more about this remarkable village, its rector and the disease which had decimated its inhabitants. A search of the UQ library catalogue led me to the Fryer Library which held a book from the late Archbishop Hale’s collection – The history and antiquities of Eyam: with a full and particular account of the Great Plague, which desolated that village AD 1666, by William Wood, published in 1842. A recently published book on the same subject commented that Wood’s book ‘is noteworthy because he included a detailed account of the plague based on the oral tradition, but he tended to be carried away by Victorian romanticism, and is not always accurate’.2 Wood’s Victorian romanticism carried me away too – I could not put the book down.

Wood’s account of Eyam has been followed by other ones. As a teacher and story-teller at UQ for twenty-nine years, I read this account of the
Eyam plague with an overwhelming feeling that a new story I could tell was coming on. Others have been similarly moved by the story of Eyam, the most recent being Geraldine Brooks who wrote *Year of wonders; a novel of the plague*. A summary of this book reads:

This gripping historical novel is based on the true story of Eyam, the ‘Plague Village’, in the rugged mountain spine of England. In 1666, a tainted bolt of cloth from London carries bubonic infection to this isolated settlement of shepherds and lead miners. A visionary young preacher convives the villagers to seal themselves off in a deadly quarantine to prevent the spread of disease.

It should be noted that this novel, first published in 2001, identifies the plague as bubonic plague, that is, a bacterial infection caused by the organism named *Yersinia pestis* which was discovered in 1894. Some fifty years prior to this discovery, William Wood wrote this about the plague:

But the most generally presumed efficient cause of contagious diseases, is a change in the proportions of the constituents of the atmosphere, affecting various constituents. Infection and contagion have their origin in animalcula; and, therefore, their infancy, maturity, and decline. The bubo of the plague is full of them.

A current website on the plague is unequivocal about the cause:

Most historians now accept that the Black Death (the ‘bubonic plague’) arrived in Eyam when infected cloth was delivered to the house of the village tailor … the cloth was infested with the rat fleas now known to be responsible for the spread of the disease.

But accepted versions of history are not always accurate, and the account of the plague in Eyam needs further scrutiny. Each infectious agent is different. Each behaves in a peculiar way. In particular they differ in the way they spread and cause disease. Understanding infectious disease is understanding microbial behaviour. So, as I read William Wood’s lay and second-hand accounts of ante-mortem symptoms and patterns of spread of the infection within the village, I had a growing disquiet about the disease at the centre of the tale. Perhaps this was not bubonic plague after all.

A second opportunity to visit the UK in 2009 brought me to the Eyam Museum, 1998-99 winner of the Shoestring Award for the museum achieving the best results with limited resources, and found it a worthy award winner. The emphasis of the exhibits was on the life and people of this quarantined village amidst the devastation taking place there. The nature of the infectious agent was of minor importance and what microbiology was highlighted repeated the assertion that the plague was caused by the rat flea-borne bacterium, *Y. pestis*. Only the last exhibit made reference to recent studies in Berkeley, USA, where particular genetic mutations were linked to susceptibility to certain viral infections. The possibility of the plague being a viral haemorrhagic disease was raised, and several references given.

One of these references was a book *The biology of plagues* which, on returning home, I found in the Biological Sciences Library at UQ. Herein lay the explanation for my disquiet because one of the authors, a historical demographer using mathematical modelling, had looked at the epidemiology (study of incidence and distribution of disease) of outbreaks of plague in numerous places, including Eyam. The authors concluded that ‘of all the known infectious diseases, bubonic plague with its complex biology is the most unlikely candidate for the relatively simple epidemiology of the Black Death’. For Eyam their judgement was unambiguous: ‘it is a biological impossibility that *Y. pestis* was the causative agent’.

Did this microbiological revelation dampen my enthusiasm for William Wood’s book? Not at all, for what moved me was not the agent of the Great Plague but rather the villagers’ response to
this most devastating disease. Perhaps the most moving part of the book for me was the letter which the young rector, William Mompesson, wrote to his two children who had been sent away to live with friends following declaration of the quarantine. In the month of August 1666, there were only three days when no deaths were recorded in the village, but seventy-eight deaths occurred on the other twenty-eight days. The Hancock family lost two children on 3 August, the husband and two sons on 7 August, a daughter on 9 August and another daughter on 10 August. Only the wife survived and she buried them all. Later in the month Catherine Mompesson died and this is part of her husband’s letter informing George and Elizabeth of their mother’s death.

Dear Hearts, This brings you the doleful news of your dear mother’s death – the greatest loss which ever befel you! I am not only deprived of a kind and loving consort, but you also are bereaved of the most indulgent mother that ever dear children had. We must comfort ourselves in God with this consideration, that the loss is only ours, and that what is our sorrow is her gain. The consideration of her joys, which I do assure myself are unutterable, should refresh our drooping spirits.

My children, I think it may be useful to you to have a narrative of your dear mother’s virtues, that the knowledge thereof may teach you to imitate her excellent qualities…

A little before she died, she asked me to pray with her again. I asked her how she did? The answer was, that she was looking when the good hour should come. Thereupon I prayed, and she made her responses from the Common Prayer Book, as perfectly as in her health, and an ‘Amen’ to every pathetic expression. When we ended the prayers for the sick, we used those from the Whole Duty of Man! And when I heard her say nothing, I said ‘My dear, dost thou mind?’ She answered ‘Yes’, and it was the last word she spoke.

My dear babes, the reading of this account will cause a salt tear to spring from your eyes; yet let this comfort you – your mother is a saint in heaven.10

On my visits to Eyam I saw Catherine Mompesson’s name in the Register of Deaths held in the church. I visited Mompesson’s Well where supplies were left for collection by the villagers, and money for payment, left in vessels containing vinegar to disinfect it. I also saw the open area where church services were conducted during the quarantine period, and houses of families where most of the inhabitants died and in whose backyards they were buried.

As I walked around the village and up the hill to Mompesson’s Well I did feel something of what William Wood exhorited of his readers:

Let all who tread the green fields of Eyam remember, with feelings of awe and veneration, that beneath their feet repose the ashes of those moral heroes, who with a sublime, heroic, and an unparalleled resolution gave up their lives, – yea! doomed themselves to pestilential death, to save the surrounding country …. Their magnanimous self-sacrifice, in confining themselves within a proscribed boundary during the terrible pestilence, is unequalled in the annals of the world …. How exalted, the sense of duty …. Tread softly, then, on the fields where their ashes are laid.11

REFERENCES
Thomas Graham was an assistant surgeon, and eventually surgeon, in the Royal Navy from 1841 until his early death of fever at the age of thirty-two in 1850. During his years at sea, he kept a diary. The surviving volume, which covers two voyages on board HMS Warspite, to the West Indies and New York in 1843, and part of a voyage in the eastern Mediterranean during 1845, is now held in the Fryer Library. The Wellcome Library for the History of Medicine holds later volumes, as well as a large, but incomplete, collection of his letters.

Matching up these separate collections represents a minor triumph of the Internet. In March 2004, Fryer Library uploaded details of the 1843-5 diary to the national bibliographic database as part of a retrospective cataloguing project for its single item manuscripts, with the following note on the catalogue record: ‘Writer unidentified but appears to be a doctor or ship’s surgeon.’ Within days of this information appearing in Libraries Australia, Fryer Library was contacted by a retired philatelist, John Beagle, now of Canberra, who thought he recognised the diary as the work of Thomas Graham, whose letters he had handled professionally, and whose history he was now researching. Comparison of the handwriting confirmed the identification. Fryer now has copies of all Graham’s known papers, making it possible to compare accounts of events in the diary with descriptions of the same events in his letters, and to see how both topics and perspective were coloured by the different purposes for which he wrote. A diary has no audience, and is written only to please, or for the convenience of, its author; a letter must serve the needs of both writer and recipient. Different conventions apply, as the quotations above illustrate: a diary reports a series of quotidian events, often with no particular priority, but in a letter, the writer needs to engage his reader, often by finding common ground between them.
Graham had several correspondents, but most of the letters that survive were his regular communications (once a fortnight when possible), with his sister Catherine, the postmistress at Ecclefechan, in Dumfriesshire, where Graham was born. Catherine was twenty years his senior, and following the death of their parents, she had brought him up. Each letter he wrote to her contains the news of the day, descriptions of the places he has been, chatty accounts of any social gatherings or tourist expeditions, and responses to her reports on family, friends and servants. No doubt he censored some of his activities from his sister’s (and his diary’s) gaze, but in general, Thomas Graham treated her in his correspondence as his intellectual equal, and his respect and affection are very evident.

In the first part of the diary held by Fryer, Graham recorded marine observations between January 1843 and February 1844, covering the voyages from Jamaica to Havana to New York, New York to Portsmouth, a long refit at Spithead, then on to Lisbon and into the Mediterranean. HMS Warspite arrived in Malta at the end of January 1844, where this part of the diary ends.

The emphasis in this section of the diary is on recording – phase of the moon, wind speed and direction, temperature and weather conditions – though in the final right hand column Graham occasionally makes more general observations, brief word pictures that give the diary its charm. For this period though, Graham’s letters to Catherine are far richer. He complained about high prices in Jamaica that were, he had been told, a consequence of the emancipation of the slaves. ‘And certainly they are now the laziest set of rascals I ever met’.3

In late October, Warspite sailed for Portugal, en route to the Mediterranean. In Lisbon, the senior surgeon cut himself while conducting a postmortem on a man who had died of erysipelas, caught the acute Streptococcus infection himself, and died. Graham was appointed acting surgeon, but only until a replacement arrived in Malta at the beginning of February.4

With his arrival in Malta, the first section of brief diary entries ends halfway through the volume. Graham probably kept another (now lost) diary during the rest of 1844, but from his few surviving letters to Catherine this year, we can follow Warspite’s voyages between the British outposts of Malta and Gibraltar, showing the flag along the North African coast, and observing signs of the growing conflict between France and Morocco. In July, Warspite was present when the French, under the Prince de Joinville, attacked Tangiers, and seized the island of Mogador (now Essaouira). Graham recorded the events critically, and in considerable detail, in his letters to his sister, especially the activities of the French naval vessel Belle Poule. On 21 August 1844, The Times published three letters ‘From A Naval Officer’, and ‘From Another Officer’ (x2), on HMS Warspite, Bay of Tangiers, criticising the French actions. The publication of these letters caused ‘a considerable row’ on board, according to Graham, with the Captain asking each officer in turn ‘if he was the author. Some declined answering. Others said no. But so many declined that he cannot ascertain who wrote them. ‘Eventually the parson confessed, but the other whistleblowers were never identified’.5

In February 1845, Graham turned over his unfilled journal, and began writing from the other end until he reached the pre-ruled columns he had made two years earlier. He was still assistant surgeon, awaiting a promotion that eluded him, and increasingly
fretful with this extended tour of duty in the Mediterranean, but he was developing as a diarist. During 1845, the entries in the diary now located in Fryer become richer and fuller, and closer in style to those of the letters he still wrote regularly, if a little less frequently, to his sister back at home. He recorded his life aboard HMS Warspite, mainly at anchor off the coast of Beirut, with short cruises up and down the Levantine coast to Smyrna, Jaffa and Sidon.

During the 1840s, Britain was at peace in the Mediterranean and relations with the Ottoman Empire were relatively good, so the British squadron had little to do but show the flag, though more personal tensions between France and Britain tended to flare, especially when the Belle Poule arrived and was anchored nearby. Beirut was a small town in the process of becoming an important port city; Graham regularly noted the coming and going of Turkish and Austrian steamers travelling between Smyrna, Constantinople and Alexandria. He also recorded the arrival of other warships – French, Prussian, American and Turkish – and the ceremonial recognition of each other’s fetes and festivals, however grudgingly. So for instance on 29 July he noted somewhat sourly, ‘Dressed ship with French Ensign &c and saluted at noon “three days of glorious memory” – barricades, &c’. Two days later, he recorded:

1st. August – Turkish frigate dressed with flag, saluted &c and we hoisted the ensigns with the Turkish at the Main, and saluted and were followed by the French corvette – this was in honor of a Mahomedan festival. Curious to see Christians honouring superstitious rites – aye! Especially when we did not salute on the anniversary of the coronation of our own Queen (much to the astonishment of the French) – a bummer to-day to the memory of Nelson it being the anniversary of the Battle of the Nile.’

These ceremonial occasions relieved the tedium of what had become a very long and uneventful posting. Perhaps because of this general ennui, Warspite was an unhappy ship. Graham clearly disliked Captain Wallis, and suggests in his diary that many officers were jealous of the First Lieutenant, Mr. Drury, who had the Captain’s favour. In June, while they were ‘watering’, a barge capsized in the surf and six men were drowned. ‘Capt in a great flurry but trying to get it off Mr. D’s shoulders on Mr. Halletts.’ More shockingly, early on 10 August, Graham was called to the Ship’s Master’s room to find that, under threat of court martial for drunkenness, Mr. Chaffers ‘had committed suicide by cutting his throat with a razor which was found on the floor – the large vessels of right side were completely cut through, the carotid of the left cut into’.

In his letters to Catherine, Graham expanded on his antipathy for Wallis, whom he considered a poor and timid sailor, but he made no mention in the letters of more distressing topics such as Chaffers’ suicide, and spent relatively little time on the shipboard politics that dominate the diary. For a modern reader – as, no doubt, for Catherine – the most interesting stories come from when he went ashore. Although he found Beirut itself a place of ‘dirty crowded streets’, beyond were ‘cherry and plum trees in full blossom’, as well as many wonders – even ‘a fine young panther, a noble animal’ chained in the Pasha’s Courtyard.

Tourism was in its infancy when Graham wrote, but he and his companions were classically educated, and eager to visit classical sites. While at Salamis he refreshed his ‘memory with another sight of the ruins of Athens’ and the highlight of his time in Lebanon was a journey with several companions on horseback to see the ruined temples of Baalbek, which he sketched in his diary.

Warspite finally left Beirut on 24 December 1845, and reached England in April 1846. ‘The Captain and I parted the very best of friends’, Graham told his sister. ‘He has given me an excellent certificate and promises to speak well of me at the Admiralty, saying that he will do his utmost to obtain my promotion’. However it was not to be. The Captain’s support apparently proved lukewarm at best, for no promotion followed. Graham continued as an assistant surgeon in the Royal Navy, serving on the store ship HMS Madagascar in Ireland during the famine, and then on HMS Apollo on a voyage to China. He was finally promoted to surgeon only weeks before he died of malaria in China in 1850 at the age of thirty-two.

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3. Thomas Graham to Catherine Graham, 16 February 1843.
4. Thomas Graham to Catherine Graham, 19 and 23 December 1843, 14 February 1844.
5. Thomas Graham to Catherine Graham, 9 September 1844.
8. Ibid, 22 June 1845.
9. Ibid, 10 August 1845.
10. Ibid, 2 and 4 March 1845.
11. Thomas Graham to Catherine Graham, 24 November 1844.
12. Thomas Graham to Catherine Graham, 8 March 1845; Thomas Graham, Log book, 10 to 19 March 1845.
13. Thomas Graham to Catherine Graham, 23 April 1845.

FURTHER READING:
COLLECTIONS

Fryer Library is delighted to add to its holdings of Frank Moorhouse papers with a substantial acquisition of ten more boxes. This material covers the whole of his life and career, and includes family correspondence, early writings, journals, notebooks, travel diaries, manuscripts, an extensive archive of photographs, and material covering his efforts as author advocate in the area of copyright and industry standards within the Australian writing community. The collection of manuscript material relating to Australian literature is at the core of Fryer’s activity so this acquisition is a potentially rich resource for researchers of the future.

The Gwen Harwood collection of papers has already received attention from scholars of Australian literature. Fryer has recently acquired a substantial addition to these papers from her son and literary executor John Harwood. It includes poetry drafts, diaries, notebooks, correspondence, musical libretti, ephemera, and annotated copies of books. The musical material is particularly valuable. This supplements a large collection of Harwood letters acquired by Fryer earlier in 2010.

THESIS RESEARCH DATA PUT TO GOOD USE

While researching her master’s thesis in history in the early 1980s, Di Perkins conducted interviews with significant people in the north-west of Queensland. While the thesis topic mutated somewhat, as they often do, Di had the good sense to recognise the importance of the data she had acquired and deposited the recordings with the Fryer Library. Recently the material has been used by researchers from Queensland South Native Title Services preparing a ‘connection report’ for a Kalkadoon native title claim. The interviews with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in the Mt Isa district provided valuable insights into people’s historical connections to country. As often happens, the research data for one project becomes the raw material for another, quite different one.

Fryer is always interested to hear from researchers who have collected primary data in fields related to our collecting – Australian literature, history, architecture, art and indigenous studies.

SIXTY YEARS OF TEACHING & LEARNING

Recently Fryer received a donation of material from Mrs Dell Lee of Beerwah relating to the career of her father-in-law, the late Professor Douglas Lee. The donation includes these photographs of his inaugural lecture in the Physiology Department dated 2 October 1936 (top picture) and his last UQ lecture on 3 September 1999 (bottom picture). Professor Lee (1905-2005) was the University’s foundation professor of physiology from 1936 to 1948. While much of his career was spent in the United States he returned to Australia in 1990 and continued to lecture part time. His research focussed on the effects of heat on humans and animals. His last lecture was to medical students on the physiological changes that occur to the body with aging, using himself as an illustrative model.
TREASURE OF THE MONTH

Fryer Library continues its ‘Treasure of the Month’ initiative, designed to highlight and promote significant and interesting items in its collections. Each month, a chosen ‘treasure’ is displayed in a special case in the Fryer Library Reading Room and an accompanying online display at www.library.uq.edu.au/flyer makes the item available to a wider audience.

Items profiled from July to November include: ‘Our Ekka’: a diverse selection of material relating to the Exhibition and its early history; the Brisbane Writers Festival; and Monsignor Michael Potter, a collection of personal effects and correspondence which tells the story of one of Queensland’s early Catholic priests.

Above: ‘Our Ekka’ - a diverse selection of material relating to the Exhibition
Left: Monsignor Michael Potter and the Writing slope presented to Rev. Potter, 1900

DONATION

I enclose $ __________  □ Cash  □ Cheque
Please charge my: □ Visa Card  □ Mastercard  □ Amex
Card Number: ___________________________ Expiry Date: _______________________
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Cheques made payable to: The Fryer Library
The Fryer Library
Level 4, Duhig Building
The University of Queensland Q 4072
Friends of Fryer

Recent Events

2 AUGUST: ‘A LITTLE BIT OF LOVE FOR ME AND A MURDER FOR MY OLD MAN: THE QUEENSLAND BUSH BOOK CLUB’ BY ROBIN WAGNER

Friends of Fryer warmly welcomed a US visitor, Robin Wagner ( pictured right), Director of the Library at Gettysburg College. In 2008 Robin received a professional development grant from Gettysburg to pursue research on American librarian Ralph Munn which, in circuitous fashion, led her to the Queensland Bush Book Club papers.

Audience members ( pictured right) heard a thoroughly engaging account of the reading and book distribution in Queensland in an era before public libraries.

Well-to-do city women established the Queensland Bush Book Club to solicit donations of ‘proper reading matter’ and raise funds for the purchase and distribution of books for their ‘sisters’ in the outback. The talk was well attended. Some members of the audience had direct associations with the club and a rich and fruitful dialogue between Robin and audience members followed the talk.

4 SEPTEMBER: BRISBANE WRITERS FESTIVAL

The UQ Library was delighted to sponsor the appearance of Peter Goldsworthy and Anna Goldsworthy at the Brisbane Writers Festival, 1-5 September. Peter Goldsworthy is the bestselling author of eight novels and multiple volumes of short stories and poetry. He has won major literary awards across a range of genres and in 2010 he was awarded an AM for service to literature. Acclaimed as a poet, novelist, playwright and librettist Peter gave the audience at the State Library of Queensland insights into short story writing in a session entitled ‘Short and Curlies’. The session was chaired by University Librarian and Director of Learning Services, Keith Webster. Peter was a captivating speaker and the session was very well attended.

Anna Goldsworthy’s memoir Piano lessons recalls her first steps towards a life in music, from childhood piano lessons to international success as a concert pianist. She has collaborated with her father on a theatrical adaptation of his novel Maestro.

In ‘Music and Words: an intimate and extraordinary interlude’, Anna appeared with Linda Neil, author of Learning to breathe, in a session chaired by Jana Wendt. Anna and Linda discussed their search for meaning and connection through music and words. The two authors/musicians moved audiences with short performances, Anna playing some of the piano pieces that feature in her memoir and Linda playing the violin.

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6 SEPTEMBER: MEET THE AUTHORS: PETER GOLDSWORTHY AND ANNA GOLDSWORTHY

In an event held in conjunction with the Brisbane Writers Festival, the Goldsworthyts visited The University of Queensland on Monday 6 September, to present an in-conversation session that was open to the public and generated much interest. Audiences were delighted as father and daughter recounted their approaches to writing and shared personal insights in a relaxed free-flowing dialogue about writing, music, childhood, parenting, families and balancing careers. We had considered the desirability of seconding a grand piano for the event and asking Anna Goldsworthy to play something for us at UQ, as she had at the Brisbane Writers Festival, but time and money were against us. Perhaps another time!

11 NOVEMBER: CELEBRATION OF GIVING

On Thursday 11 November at the 2010 Celebration of Giving, The University of Queensland recognised the support of its many donors. The impact of support of philanthropists has particular resonance in this Centenary year. One of the first and most significant of the University’s benefactors was Dr James O’Neil Mayne who, together with his sister Mary Emelia Mayne, made the University’s move to its current St Lucia site possible with an £80 000 in 1926.

In recognition of his generosity the University commissioned a bronze medallion portrait of Dr Mayne, created by alumnus and University sculptor Dr Rhyl Hinwood AM. The medallion was officially unveiled on the day of the Celebration of Giving by the Chancellor of the University, Dr John Story, and donors had the opportunity to see the medallion and hear Dr Hinwood talk about the portrait, which she based on a photograph selected in consultation with UQ benefactor Dr Rosamond Siemon.

The Celebration of Giving organised by the Advancement Office with cooperation and input from the Library, was held in the new student collaborative space, The Hive, on Level One of the Social Sciences and Humanities Library.

In his speech at the event the Chancellor mentioned the fact that it was also in 1926 that students of the Dramatic Society at UQ made their donation of £10 which funded a small collection that would grow into the Fryer Library. The gift is recorded in the Book of Student Benefactors, which is held in the University’s Archives. The book was on display at the event.

Donors were invited on a tour of the Library where they could see the new learning spaces available to students. They were also given a preview of the Library’s new publication, Found in Fryer: stories from the Fryer Library collection. The Library mounted an exhibition featuring images from the book and provided guests with souvenir bookmarks featuring images from the cover.

One of the highlights of the event was a display of Fryer treasures, which was set up in the FW Robinson Reading Room. More than 120 of the guests viewed the rare books, art works, manuscript material and realia before the festivities started. There was great interest in this display and in the Library, and the event was a wonderful success where guests mingled until long after the official proceedings finished.
In 1998 Alf Howard stated: ‘I want to know about anything that comes in front of me. I suppose I’m curious. I’m always anxious to find out what makes things tick’.

Alf was aged 92 at that time, and he continued being curious until beyond his 104th birthday. He died peacefully at Amity-BUPA Nursing Home in New Farm on 4 July, 2010.

Alf was born in Camberwell, Victoria, and attended Camberwell Primary and Gardiner Central Schools before going to University High School. He entered The University of Melbourne in 1923 on a State Senior Scholarship and graduated with a BSc (February 1927) with majors at honours level in physics and chemistry and a sub-major in mathematics. In February 1928 he completed his MSc in industrial chemistry.

Alf was asked to join Douglas Mawson’s 1929 expedition to Antarctica as chemist and hydrologist. After intensive training in hydrology at marine institutes in London, Plymouth and Hull he boarded the *Discovery* at Cape Town for the great southern voyage. The twenty-three year-old Alf was the youngest member of the expedition.

After that expedition Alf became a pioneer in research pertaining to preserving foods with what is now CSIRO. It was during his early days in Griffith, NSW that he met the new CSIR secretary, Elizabeth Anne Beck, whom he married in Sydney in 1933.

During WWII Alf developed dehydrated meat and vegetables for Australian service personnel. After the war he moved to Brisbane to lead CSIRO’s meat research. Alf became interested in the reaction of consumers to food products and how one measures the ‘acceptability’ of foods. Realising this was really a psychological question, he completed a BA majoring in Psychology at UQ. With both a BA and his MSc (from 1928), Professor Donald McElwain facilitated Alf’s entry into a PhD program. For his dissertation he studied the methodology of quantification of multi-dimension attributes such as flavour, tenderness, etc. – which, of course, involved the development of appropriate computer programs. Alf was awarded a PhD in 1968 for his doctoral dissertation, ‘The Measurement of Attributes of Eating Quality’.

Following compulsory retirement from CSIRO at age 65, and the loss of his wife in 1972, Alf continued with his academic interests, one being the psychology of verbal communication (or ‘what people meant when they spoke’). He completed a BA Honours degree in 1980, this time studying linguistics.

In the early 1980s, Alf began volunteer work in the Department of Human Movement Studies. The outcome of that experience was the Department gained a computer and statistics ‘whiz-kid’ (albeit one in his 70s!).

Alf renewed his association with Antarctica while in his 80s; he returned there on the Frontier Spirit with Dick Smith’s “In the Steps of Mawson Expedition” in 1990-91; the next year he flew to Argentina and embarked for western Antarctica, and on his return also visited the Galapagos and Easter Island. In 1993 he ventured to Commonwealth Bay and the Ross Sea bases. Having seen much of Antarctica, in 1994 he went to the Arctic Circle.

Alf was truly a Renaissance person; he was a genuine lover of the arts, especially opera, symphonies, and ballet to which he was a dedicated subscriber for decades. Alf never owned a television set, preferring to read and listen to classical music.

Alf’s contribution to The University of Queensland, and to Human Movement Studies especially, was immense and immeasurable. In his honour, a bust sculpted by Cam Griffin is on permanent display in the foyer of the Human Movement Studies building, and the Undergraduate Computer Laboratory that he substantially funded is named after him.

Alf was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science from The University of Queensland in December 1993 for outstanding contributions to the advancement of science and dedicated service to The University of Queensland. In 1998 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia; in 2001 he received an Australian Geographic Society Award.

Alf wrote in 1998: ‘I’m honoured in a sense that I’ve been able to live and work in a scientific milieu and that I’ve been involved in something that helped someone along the way’.

This gentle, quiet, gracious man and scholar is greatly missed. DR IAN JOBLING
Mr David Rowbotham

27 August 1924 – 6 October 2010

In October 1954, David Rowbotham wrote to Professor FW Robinson, ‘I do not know whether the Fryer Library at the University is still in your care; but I am addressing my book of verse (“Ploughman and Poet”, just published by the Commonwealth Literary Fund) … to you. Would you please accept it, with my compliments, for the Fryer Library? I should certainly like the library to have it …’. 

Ploughman and Poet was the first published work of David Harold Rowbotham, born on 27 August 1924 in Toowoomba. In a poem, ‘Hometown’, he wrote that Toowoomba was ‘ever memorable’. Rowbotham’s early engagement with what he called ‘the kitchen grail’ – the homely and familiar – continued to be effective and to have the most impact in his poetry. Town and city: tales and sketches (1956), a companion book of prose, reinforced the writer’s understanding that ‘early blooms unfold close down to primary origins – to his earth’; acknowledging a ‘sober affection’ for the place of beginning. Robinson said in his reply to Rowbotham that the poet’s ‘imaginative use of local names and the addition of meaning to the local scene particularly appealed to me’.

Before ‘Winter night’, his first published poem, appeared in The Bulletin in 1946, Rowbotham had collected thirty rejection slips. He agonised to Douglas Stewart, editor of The Bulletin’s Red Page, ‘Am I good enough?’ Stewart has written about that ‘Bulletin school of minor nature poets that flourished in the forties’, Rowbotham among them. The young poet was grateful for Stewart’s generous advice on technique and craft and the oft-repeated words, ‘simplify’ and ‘clarify’. Rowbotham was also published in the Jindyworobak anthologies in the late 1940s.

As a returned serviceman from the Second World War, Rowbotham frequently referred his readers to the lasting impression of war. One poem, ‘Silhouette’, was a metaphor for the poet: a solitary figure fighting an independent battle and struggling for possession of a prized vantage point. He was never quite satisfied that he had ‘won’. His own assessment in 2000 was that his work had ‘never been compromised by fashionable movements in literature. It has stood its ground, and grown of its own accord’.

A long career as a highly respected journalist with The Courier-Mail culminated in his appointment as literary editor (1980-87); meanwhile, his poetry was recognised with the Grace Leven Poetry Prize in 1964, the Australia Council Writers’ Emeritus Award in 1989 and the Patrick White Award in 2007. The honour, Member of the Order of Australia (AM), was bestowed in 1991.

In the letter acknowledging Ploughman and Poet, FW Robinson commented that ‘the notices of your book were particularly pleasant and favourable’ and anticipated the ‘next book’. After that early encouragement, Rowbotham published fifteen books of poetry. Critic James Tulip once remarked that ‘Rowbotham has bitten harder into the question of “being a poet” than anyone else’. The last published poem, in May 2010, was ‘Phantoms’, a few months before Rowbotham’s death on 6 October 2010. His widow Ethel and daughters, Beverley and Jill, have the permanent legacy of a large volume of work.

DR STEPHANY STEGGALL

OBITUARIES
Found in Fryer presents one hundred items selected from the collections of the Fryer Library at The University of Queensland. The stories and the accompanying pictures illustrate the diversity of the Library’s special collections. These feature rare and artists’ books, and collections relating to Australian literature, theatre, history and politics, art and architecture.

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