

# Collections Projects Program 2023

## University of Melbourne

### Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum

#### Project Description

##### Australian Dental Association (Victorian Branch) Research and Cataloguing project

#### The Project

This project offers the opportunity for you to become involved in cataloguing items recently gifted to the [Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum](#). The project work will involve the completion of cataloguing worksheets for the new acquisitions and once fully catalogued, these records will be added to the HFA Museum's electronic database, *Vernon*. The project contributes to the accessibility, long-term preservation, storage and appreciation of the collection. This work will take place at the Australian Dental Association Office in South Yarra.

#### Background

The [Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum](#) contains over 2500 objects, photographs, documents and catalogues relating to the history of dentistry and dental education in Victoria. Objects in the collection date from the early 1700s and provide insight into the changes and developments within the dental profession and its striving to improve the standard of dental education, dental health and dental care within Victoria and more broadly in Australia.

#### Details

In consultation with the Director and Registrar, you will be able to catalogue a selection of collection objects that have not yet been catalogued. Tasks may include: the completion of cataloguing fields for the database, the assigning of accession numbers and labelling or numbering of the object. Where appropriate you may be required to rehouse objects to meet museum standards. There is also scope within this project to work with a selection of objects from the collection that have been briefly catalogued in the past but would benefit from more detailed catalogue entries eg. expansion of fields such as acquisition details, object details and other gaps within the catalogue. The catalogue information will then be incorporated into the museum's database (Vernon CMS).

This project would suit students who have an interest in dental/medical history and a basic understanding of collection management principles specific to the documentation of museum objects (progress towards a relevant degree and/or previous volunteer experience with an Archive, Museum or Historical Society is desirable). Knowledge of the correct procedures for the safe handling of objects is required as is a methodical, prudent approach with a keen eye for detail.

*\*Please note, to work on this project you will need to be available on Tuesdays.*

#### Benefits

Opportunity to work at close hand with one of the University of Melbourne's extensive cultural collections and for professional development through experience gained in collection management procedures and practice. Satisfaction in working closely with the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum's significant holdings and seeing the collection catalogue updated and expanded. The application of collection management principles to the University's cultural collections enhances our long-term understanding, management and appreciation of the collections.

#### Supervisors

Director Museums – Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

Registrar – Faculty Museums

