FRIENDS OF THE
BAILLIEU LIBRARY

A LIST OF BOOKS
PRESENTED TO THE UNIVERSITY
OF MELBOURNE

1966 – 1987

Parkville
The University of Melbourne
1987

(This digital version produced 2007)
This list is dedicated to the memory of Emeritus Professor K.F. Russell, who was a member of the first Committee of the Friends of the Basilisk Library, and served on it until his death in 1987. His wise counsel was much valued and will be sorely missed.

The list was compiled by Jamie Stewart and Juliet Fleisch, with the assistance of Valerie Turnbull.

CONTENTS

| Introduction                                                                 | 1 |
| Architecture & Landscape Gardening                                         | 9 |
| Art of the Book                                                            | 9 |
| - Académie des Beaux Livres                                               |   |
| - Basilisk Press                                                           |   |
| - Birmingham School of Printing                                           |   |
| - Carton                                                                    |   |
| - Boosey Press                                                            |   |
| - Fantomet Press                                                           |   |
| - Golden Cockade Press                                                     |   |
| - Kelmscott Press                                                          |   |
| - Lion & Unicorn Press                                                    |   |
| - Officina Bodoni                                                          |   |
| - Rampant Lions Press                                                     |   |
| - Strawberry Hill Press                                                   |   |
| - Typographical Society of Newcastle-upon-Tyne                             |   |
| Australian History                                                        | 14 |
| Bibliographies & Catalogues                                                | 14 |
| Books for Children                                                        | 15 |
| Botanical Sciences                                                         | 15 |
| Classical Studies                                                          | 16 |
| European History                                                          | 17 |
| Flaggs                                                                      | 18 |
| Literature                                                                | 19 |
| Manuscripts                                                               | 21 |
| Medical History                                                           | 22 |
| Music                                                                     | 25 |
| New Product                                                               | 22 |
| Philosophy & Religion                                                     | 23 |
| Physical Sciences                                                         | 21 |
| Voyages & Travels                                                         | 25 |
| Zoological Sciences                                                       | 24 |
| Index                                                                     | 26 |
| Chronological Listing                                                     | 30 |

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INTRODUCTION

The Friends of the Balliol Library of the University of Melbourne Library celebrates the twenty-first anniversary of its foundation on 7 September 1987, and it is fitting that this occasion should be marked by a survey and awareness of the society's achievements so far.

The Friends' first minutes record that:

At 5.15 pm on Wednesday 7 September, the Vice Chancellor and Lady Paton welcomed guests to an At Home at their residence. This function was to discuss a proposal for the formation of a Society, namely "Friends of the Balliol Library".

The initial invitation to join the Friends of the Balliol Library stated:

"The formation of such a group will assist the University Library in many ways. The annual donations of the members will provide a fund for the purchase of books, manuscripts or prints required by the Library. It is hoped that the Friends will take an active interest in the Library and will use it freely. They may show their support by reporting to the Library individual items of merit and important collections, and if necessary, be ready to assist in their acquisition by the University. Books donated by the Friends will carry an appropriate bookplate and lists of such acquisitions will be circulated from time to time. The committee intends to arrange meetings of members at which exhibitions of books will be shown and lectures given."

Lectures and exhibitions there certainly have been over the years, and lists of acquisitions have been submitted annually to the Annual General Meeting of the Friends, but this represents the first comprehensive listing of material added to the University Library with the financial assistance of the Friends. It is produced in the Library's expression of thanks for the Friends' support over the past 21 years and to mark the exhibition of Friends' purchases retained to celebrate their coming of age.

What is remarkable about the list is the spread of the Friends' interests and support which it displays. Initially, because of a general lack of funds for Library acquisitions, the books presented by the Friends started to be somewhat more pedantic than in later years, when, with an overall improvement in the Library's capacity to support the teaching and research needs of the University community, it became possible for the Friends to concentrate on acquiring only remarkable books.

The subjects covered by the Friends' acquisitions, and the forms of library material supported have always been extremely varied. Books have been bought on zoology, botany, history, medicine, fine arts, creative literature, science and technology, music and architecture. The Friends have bought pamphlets, periodicals, books and maps. They have bought original editions and quality facsimiles. They have, in fact, supported almost the total range of library activity, and enriched almost every facet of the Library's collections.

To select a few titles for special examination from this list is a difficult task, especially as such a selection may obscure some of the Friends' most remarkable efforts. One of these, which should be mentioned at once, is the determination and vigour with which they have supported the Library's acquisition of a complete set of the output of the Golden Cockerel Press. At the time of writing, only one title is lacking, and the Library possesses, in addition to the books themselves, an exceptional collection of the prospectuses produced for the various publications of the Press.

Less spectacular, but nonetheless important, long-term commitments by the Friends have resulted in the purchase of the Catalogue of the drawings collection of the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Minutes of the manager's meetings of the Royal Institute of Great Britain from 1750 to 1800, and Oriental ceramics, the world's great collections, published by Kodansha, Tokyo over several years.

The Friends' have also not ignored the considerable importance to a scholarly library of expensive bibliographical works, and their support in the early years of purchases of the publications of the Press of G.K. Hall. Boston has added considerably to the Library's strength in this area. Among the titles acquired through the Friends are: the Dictionary catalogue of printed books of the Hotetail Library, Sydney; the Catalogue of the Oriental Institute Library of the University of Chicago; the Catalogue of the Harvard University Fine Art Library, the Dictionary catalog of the Ruyome collection of the Dartmouth College Research Library and the Catalogue of the Print Division of the New York Public Library.

The Friends have a longstanding interest in private press publications and printing history. Their support of the Golden Cockerel Press has already been noted. They have also permitted the Library to acquire a collection of publications of various publishers of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, several of which form part of a series issued by the Tyne Typographical Society of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, a number of them containing engravings by Thomas Bewick. Another interesting collection is one of works issued by the Birmingham School of Printing in its press between 1924 and 1939.

It was the Friends who acquired for the Library copy no. 62 of the 100-copy edition of Captain Cook's Third Voyage: a selection of engravings from the drawings collected by Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander on Captain Cook's first voyage to the South Seas, published in 1773 by the Virtue and Longman Press, London, as well as numerous publications of Facsimile Press, the Kelmscott Press and others. Their support of acquisitions from the output of the Blackstaff Press ensures that the Library now holds an almost complete run, including The Aubrey House paintings of Front Royal, The Red books of Humphrey Repton and John Martin's Gardens of delight: the revision catalogue of Thomas Bewick the Elder.

In recent years, largely because of the improved recurrent funding to the Library, the annual acquisitions lists of the Friends have become shorter and more sharply focused on one or two major purchases for the year. Discussions with a range of academic staff resulted in 1987 in a statement of priorities for acquisition, to which the Friends have largely conformed. Acquisition has not been slow, however, and the capacity of the Friends to respond quickly and flexibly to requests for assistance from the Library has brought to the collection interesting and valuable works which would have been sold elsewhere if they had not been in an overview normal Library funding.

The achievements established by the Friends over completion of the Golden Cockerel Press holdings, pre-1700 English publications, completion at the holdings of pre-1700 Royal
A fascinating addition to the Library's considerable strength in English and European children's literature of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries is Thomas Bowmoor's The gigantic flowers of the two famous gardens. London, 1794. Bowmoor was the first English publisher of books for children. Designed to amuse as well as to instruct, the work is produced in two tiny volumes, each containing all the text and illustrations necessary because, if they were published in one "such a huge volume, the eye would be fatigued and the mind wearied."

The year 1982 saw the Friends present to the Library a number of works which reflect the continuing interest in the Library's botanical holdings, and the Library acquired John Stacpoole's Nereis Britannica: containing all the species of British marine life, bound with Thomas Ridley's Coloured figures of marine plants found on the southern coast of England, published in Bath in 1795, as well as Leandre Pontier's Description de plusieurs especes, nouvelles ou peu connues, venues dans le jardin d'J.M. Collet. Paris, 1788. All of the 160 engravings in this work are based on drawings by Pierre-Joseph Redouté and 8 of the remainders are by his younger brother Henri-Joseph.

Vestment describes the plants brought back from French and other expeditions to the southern hemisphere and cultivated in the nursery of Jean-Martin Collet. He gives the provenance of all the plants and it is interesting that many of the Australian specimens were received by Collet from England in 1792. They had been grown in England from material collected during earlier British expeditions.

Other notable botanical works purchased by the Friends include Samuel Eliott von Breder's Flora Britannica, published in Amsterdam in 1793 from the Leipzig edition of 1824-27, William Curtis's London exoticks, London, 1785; Rein Declerck's Journals des Voyages de la Société Royale de la Navigation du Pacifique, Paris, 1798-1804, and Joseph Preud de Tournaire's Journals de la Société Royale de la Navigation du Pacifique, Paris, 1798-1804. These works were received by the Library as part of a gift from the Shah Tahmash of Persia in 1568. Its pages are a blaze of colour and are accompanied by a perspicacious and scholarly commentary. This gift from the Friends forms a specially-sectioned brochure in memory of Mrs Christine Booth, one of the earliest Friends.

While the foregoing makes clear the wide-spread nature of materials acquired by the Friends, many of the most notable have undoubtedly been of Australian provenance or interest. All aspects of Australian history and life have been covered, from science, literature and art history, to the area of daily exploration of the Pacific region that the Friends' support of our collections has been especially strong. In 1979 the Friends enabled the acquisition of François Péron's Voyages de découvertes aux terres australiennes exécutés par ordre de Sa Majesté l'Empereur et Roi aux îles coralliennes Le Groenland, Le Nouvelhond, Le Canada, par le capitaine Péron, during the years 1800-1804, Paris, 1815-16. The accounts by Péron and Depres of the Southern 'Tasman' voyage are of great importance to the history of European discovery in Tasmania, and the expedition took back to France a very important collection of natural history specimens as well as much geographical information.

1980 saw the acquisition of 9 of the 34 sheets from Benevenghi's Atlas de l'Éléphant Parthoue published in St Petersburg in 1824, Additiof Adam Ivan von Krasser's...
commanded the first Russian circumnavigation of the world. During the voyage extensive oceanographic and meteorological work was carried out. The 9 maps acquired by the Library enter the two coast of Australia, New Zealand and New Guinea as well as a general map for the southern part of the Pacific.

In the following year the Friends presented the Library with the two volumes of the Journal historique de Jean Baptiste Bartolomé de Lesseps published in Paris in 1790. This is an important account of the expedition by La Perouse to the South Seas, De Lesseps returned to Europe via Petchorsk with his war correspondence from La Perouse.

In 1984 the Friends converted themselves into arguably their most important addition to the Library’s holdings in the domain of Botany. ‘Voyage sur Pôle Nord’ et dans l’Antarctique sur les corsaires L’Astréide et La Zélée, avec par ordre du Roi, Produit les années 1837, 1838, 1840, Paris, 1841–54. This is the only complete set of the full 23 text volumes, 6 atlases and 1he atlas of charts held in a Victorian library. Containing among other things, some of the first Australian plants ever produced, this magnificent work is divided into seven accounts covering the history of the voyage, meteorology, botany, anthropology, geology and mineralogy, geophysics and hydrography.

The Friends’ purchase of this work was, of course, to a degree, speeded up several years, but as it was eventually intended to mark the 150th anniversary of the State of Victoria, it is especially fitting that the gift to the Library should at the same time provide a handsome unavailable research resource for the State.

The Friends’ most recent gift to the Library, presented in time for their coming of age, is a rare botanical work from the great library of Robert De Belder. Purchased at auction, this was Pierre Bulliard’s Herbarie de la France, ou collection complète des plantes indigènes de ce royaume, avec des détails, monographies, leurs propriétés et leurs usages en médecine... (with) Dictionnaire alphabétique... (and) Histoire des champignons de la France. Paris: 1780-1829. 3 volumes in 4.

Described in Great flower books as “probably the first botanical work completely colour-printed without re-touching by hand” this work was originally issued in 151 parts, with 4 plates each, with the exception of the final part which contained 2 plates. The plates were colour-printed using a separate plate for each colour. Most of the plates were drawn, engraved and in all probability printed by Bulliard himself. 200 are of flowering plants and the rest are of fungi.

This brief account of some of the more significant gifts from the Friends of the Baillieu Library can do no more than whet the appetite for the complete listing which follows. The breadth of the Friends’ interest and support indicates that any selection will omit titles of special interest to particular readers. The Library and its users can only note this fact with gratitude and express their sense of obligation to the Friends who continue to contribute so much to the scholarly activity of the University through its Library.

W.D. Richardson
University Librarian

ARCHITECTURE & LANDSCAPE GARDENING


See also 25

ART OF THE BOOK


Académie des Beaux-Livres


Achstofnet Press


Baskett Press


Birmingham School of Printing


Caxton


Dove’s Press

29 The English Bible. containing the Old Testament and the New translated out of the original tongues and now expressed into English. By J. Heron. 1689. Presented 1976/77.


Fanfrolico Press


Golden Cockerel Press


50 Omer Khayyam. The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam. Edward Fitzgerald’s translation reprinted 500 copies, this being V1 of 500 with extra proof, signed by the author and date. Presented 1975/76.


Kilmarnock Press


Lion & Unicorn Press

59 Cline, James, Captain Cook’s Polynesia: a selection of engravings from the drawings collected by Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander on Cook’s first voyage to the islands of the Pacific ... London, Lion and Unicorn Press, 1932. No. 62 of 100 copies. Presented 1933/75.

Officina Bodoni


Rampant Lions Press


Strawberry Hill Press

63 Whitworth, Sir Charles. An account of Russia as it was in the year 1768. Printed at Strawberry Hill, 1778. Limited edition of 100 copies. Presented 1974/75.

Typographical Society of Newcastle

64 Newcastle events (Newcastle Upon Tyne) 1717-76. (1v). A collection of publications from various Newcastle publishers. Several form part of a series issued by the Typographical Society of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. A number of them have engravings by Thomas Bewick. Presented 1985/86.

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY


BIBLIOGRAPHIES & CATALOGUES


84 Rynowicz, Jan van. Museum Briquiosum: Being an exhibition of great variety of manuscripts and original engravings in London, Printed by J. Morgan, 1780, Presented 1984. See also 85.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES & CATALOGUES

85 Books for Children


BOTANICAL SCIENCE


LITERATURE


205 MacGillivray, John. Narrative of the voyage of H.M.S. Adventure, commanded by the late Captains John Hunter, R.N., F.R.S., etc. during the years 1810-1812, including discoveries and surveys in New Guinea, the Leewarde Archipelagoes, etc., to which is added the account of Mr. E.B. Noddy’s expedition for the exploration of the Cape York Peninsula (by W. Carson and others). Published under the sanction of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, Adelaide Libraries Board of South Australia. 1867. 2v. Presented 1972/73

206 Maps of India covering the period 1804-1875. Presented 1978


Moore, James. Captain Bond. ................................................. 34
Die Harth. ............................................................................. 149
Harr, John. Guardian of Migration. ........................................... 24
Harvard University, Fine Arts Library. Cambridge. ........... 80
Harvard University, Quadrangle Club Center for Byzantine Studies. Dictionary catalogue. ....... 79
Harvem. The televisimeter. ..................................................... 34
Heinrichic. ............................................................................. 150
Hindu University, Baram, Bharati Krishna. Oxford. ........ 126
Historian, American and European Music... ......................... 119
Hobson, Arthur Roy Allen, Apollo and Myggit. ................. 113
Hobson., Geoffrey Dudley. Mary, Tudors. ......................... 15
Homer, Pindar. ........................................................................ 105
Horstman, Thomas Willen. The Adam, antiques and topography of the County of Sussex. ........... 194
The History of the Blessed Virgin Mary. .............................. 168
Hunt, Peter Francis. Orphic. .................................................... 97
Ibn Sirdan, Tissauri's antiquries in medicine. ...................... 180
Theatrum antiquitatis et Inscriptiones de sabbat. .................. 181
The Keplinger Mill. ................................................................ 166
Ketley. Geoffrey, William Blake's London. ......................... 171
Koelnweiter. Stelian. Groschen Bremen. ............................ 127
Kroen, Hans Peter. Atlantic paintings from the 16th century. 126
Kutscher. Armin John von. siden i Cose Pacifico. ............. 202
La, Egon Cornelius Francis Gustav. A dominium ship. .......... 70
La Rochebouche, Francois de. Le Mus musicien. ............... 67
Lambert, Charles A. A Tale of Bevanon Great and old Model Gardens. 48
Landman. G. K. Ethnographical collections from the K-Wan district of British New Guinea at the National Museum of Finland. 31
Lame, Karl. Leaves, limited sorcery. ..................................... 196
Leape, Jean Baptiste Barnett. Del. Journal antiquarian. 190
Lindley, Norman. Two hundred things. ................................ 129
The Long of the House, 1297-1380. ................................. 204
The Lur-icious Gazett. .......................................................... 171
The Lurichischer paras. ........................................................ 172
Lytton. Alexander. .................................................................. 130
The Macindewa Society. ....................................................... 175
Maile, Peter Bremet. Early charts of New Zealand, 1542-1851. 185
Map of Java. ............................................................................ 183
Margaret, Stuart. The work of Maurice Marguerite. .......... 223
Martineau, Pierre Jean. Les grand-pontese de fontainebleau. 133
Mathews. Guyan Martin. The birth of Australia. ............... 213
The Birth of Norfolk and Lord Howe islands. .................... 218
Martin, Annie. Loving watercolours. .................................... 21
Michelena. .............................................................................. 96
Milne. John. A rejoicing at the present. ................................ 10
Mitchell Library, Sydney. Dictionary catalogue. ................. 84
Smits. Thomas. The lives of Gideon Bismuth and India. .... 128
Moffat, Francis. A history of British India. ......................... 218
Morison, Arthur. The painters of Japan. .............................. 152
Die Mous. .............................................................................. 182
Nag, Nalendra. Collectors. .................................................... 114
New York, Public Library, Prints, Drawings, Canada. ...... 82
Newby, John. Scottish made frontier and sea. ..................... 86
A spelling dictionary of the English language. ................. 87
Nowhere. .............................................................................. 64
Newton, Sir Isaac. Philosophical sympathy and mathematics. 198
Nobisberger, ..... ................................................................. 182
Oddy. Christopher, Travels in Ireland. ................................. 207
O'Flanagan, Anthony Mcgrath. Captain Cook's artists in the Pacific. 208
Omar Khayyam. The Rubaiyat. .......................................... 23
O'Sullivan, Charles. A Tale of Rosamond Gray (IIU old blind Margareta. .... 10
Oxford, University. Dictionary of the English language. ...... 83
Pater, Ludwig. Freiherr von. Strada del Nae. ...................... 168
Parry, Thomas. A war in Wales. ........................................... 118
Peters, Francis. Voyage de découverte aux terres australiennes. 209
Pemberton, Haydn. .............................................................. 48
Pelling, Austin. Magnolia's voyage. ..................................... 210
Pondicherry Journal. ............................................................. 153
Pontani. Gene and Giovanni. Alessio. In one Painters own words. 171
Poor man's garden. ............................................................. 119
Reid, Sir George. ..................................................................... 154
Read, Ronald. Honour & waiting for parliament. ............... 17
The Red book of Humphry Repton. ...................................... 102
Rhett, William. ................................................................. 320
Royal Institute of British Architects. Catalogue of the drawings collection. ........ 83
Royal Institution of Great Britain. Minutes of meeting's meetings. .......... 199
Ryan, J. Cat. Irish, Slane. ...................................................... 166
Salt. R. Richmond. The aborigines of Australia. ............... 75
Seaton, Charles Morris. Donations. Catalogue des manuscrits manuscrits latins. 18
Saxem. Serglom. The path in space. ..................................... 156
Schellack. Edmund. Complete hornbook print company. ...... 188
Schmidt, J. Catalogue of books and manuscripts by Augustus. 62
Sherwin, Praetorius. ............................................................. 178
Shelley, Mary. Frankenstein. ............................................... 59
Shakespeare, William. Paradise lost. ............................... 152
Sidney, Philip. Prince von. Neptun. ..................................... 134
Sidney, Philip Francis. Sidney. ............................................. 185
Simpson. John. The biography of Dr. Benjamin Franklin. .... 35
Visser. A. van der. The illustrated by the present. ............... 51
The Song of way. ................................................................. 54
Spencer, Edmund. The Four Gower. .................................... 222
Stedman, John. Memoirs of a。............................................. 183
Simpson. Ormond, London. ............................................... 131
Simpson. Ormond, London. ............................................... 167
The Tale of Good news. ....................................................... 136
Tucker, Jennifer. The development of the sector. ............... 7

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