

# Collections Projects Program 2023

## University of Melbourne

### Baillieu Library Print Collection

#### Project Description

##### Research Assistant Project – Narratives compilation

#### The Project

This project involves assisting in the research, writing and compilation of interpretive material to be added to the Narratives module of the *EMu* (Electronic Museum) database, the Print Collection's on-line catalogue. Research findings will enhance and expand the collection catalogue. This project will expand our knowledge and understanding of the collection's significance as well as increase public awareness of the prints and aid in their further interpretation.

#### Background

The University's [Print Collection](#) comprises some 8,000 prints – mostly etchings, engravings, mezzotints, lithographs, woodcuts and wood engravings – that date from the fifteenth century to the twentieth. It is based on a gift of 3,700 Old Master prints donated by Dr John Orde Poynton in 1959 and was further enhanced in 1964 with Harold Wright's bequest of half his Lionel Lindsay print collection and prints by his British contemporaries. The European drawing collection is made up of approximately 100 drawings, some of which are attributed to well-known artists, while others are unknown and have not yet been researched. The earliest drawings date from the 15th century and most of them came into the collection as part of the Poynton Gift.

#### Details

Under direction of the Curator, you will be assigned a selection of works from the Print Collection and have the opportunity to complete research and write narratives for them. Additional research tasks involved may include gathering of past exhibition information and other documentation that relates to the provenance of the print. These narratives will be uploaded onto the *EMu* catalogue where they will be accessible to the public through a web interface. In consultation with the curator, there may be the possibility to pursue additional research on individual prints and artists as appropriate and to contribute to the Collections blog. In addition to the project tasks, to aid understanding of the Print Collection and the issues facing it more broadly, there will also be the opportunity to assist with other collection management related duties as deemed appropriate. Ideally you will have an understanding of collection management principles specific to the documentation of museum objects (progress towards a relevant degree would be ideal). Knowledge of the correct procedures for the safe handling of collection items is required, as this position requires the inspection of vulnerable paper-based collections. Proficient research skills and the ability to work independently on research leads is necessary. A sound knowledge of the history of prints and print making techniques is recommended.

#### Benefits

Opportunity to work closely with one of the University of Melbourne's extensive cultural collections and for professional development through experience gained in curatorial and collection management procedures and practice. Satisfaction gained from completing research, writing and compilation of interpretive material for the Narratives module which contributes to making the Print Collection more accessible. If applicable, the completion of this project may be able to be used to earn a digital credential for Community Engagement through the 'Melbourne Plus' Program.

#### Supervisor

Kerriane Stone – Curator, Prints – Archives and Special Collections

