

## The Annual Percy Grainger Event

Featuring the Victorian Symphonic Winds, the 1996 Grainger Event, a joint venture of the Grainger Museum and the Faculty of Music, was a sell-out on 11 September in Melba Hall at the University of Melbourne.

Percy Grainger was prolific in composing for the band, producing over 36 works in the genre, and he was further involved with bands as conductor and performer.

The performance at the Event featured three "tuneful percussion" instruments from the Museum's collection to provide an authentic Grainger sound, and several of the items were Australian premieres of Grainger's works.



Ella Grainger playing the bells.

## The Better Baillieu Library Project

When the Baillieu Library opened at the University of Melbourne in 1959 as a state of the art academic library, it served a university with 10,000 students. User demand has more than tripled since then, and, combined with the current, rapid growth and spread of information technology, now places great pressure on the Baillieu Library building.

The Better Baillieu Library Project, one of the University's largest fundraising projects, has so far raised over \$1 million towards the redevelopment of the Baillieu Library into a world class library for the information age. With generous grants from the William Buckland Foundation, the Ian Potter Foundation and others, the project is well underway, with a major refurbishment of the ground floor commencing at the beginning of 1997.

## Discovery Day

Over 2,000 people visited the six library branches open on 1996 Discovery Day, Sunday 18 August. Activities included guided and self-guided tours, exhibitions, displays and demonstrations. Bright yellow Library balloons were particularly popular with the younger visitors and many were spotted later on south-bound trams. The day was a great success, not only for visitors but for the staff who worked so hard behind and in front of the scenes.

## Visiting Scholars Program

The University Library's East Asian Collection played host in 1995 and 1996 to two visiting scholars from Beijing University. During their time with the Library, the visitors studied various aspects of Western library operations, library automation systems, the National Chinese-Japanese-Korean System, the creation of home pages for the Internet and visited a number of other academic libraries. This was the first such exchange visit between the two institutions and it has been judged as most worthwhile.

## Recent Exhibitions at the Baillieu Library

### South Africa: A Changing Society,

curated by Melanie Lazarow,



was an unusual exhibition for the Library because it was based on contemporary material in the Library's collections and reflected the turbulent and painful history of South Africa from 1910 to the present day. The linocut shown here is *No Life* by Sydney Holo, from *Resistance Art in South Africa* by Sue Williamson, St Martins Press, 1989.



**Boats II**, curated by Geoffrey Down, featured images from the Library's print collection and was a sequel to the first Boats exhibition held in 1994. The theme of ships and boats has been a favourite subject with artists for almost as

long as art has been made. The illustration here, *Racing Yachts*, by Frank Mason, a drypoint print of 1926, featured in the exhibition poster.

To mark the Alumi-fest in October, the exhibition *Books by*



*Women Graduates of the University of Melbourne*, curated by Margaret Murphy,

was a brief but splendid celebration of the contribution to literary and academic life by graduates of this university. The illustration here shows one side of the medallion, sculpted by Michael Meszaros, commissioned by the Women Graduates Centenary Committee in 1983.