

OLD COLLEGIANS EVENTS COMING UP IN 2002

Reunion of the Collegians of 1992 will take place on Wednesday 6 March. It will take the form of an informal gathering followed by the first Old Collegians Pub Night for the academic year. Watch out for the notice.

Monday 1 April

It was sensational last year – even better this year! Oakbank Expedition, on Easter Monday.

Wednesday 1 May

Mayday will be the second term Old Collegians Pub Night.

Sunday 5 May

Help the College football teams get up to speed at Old Collegians Football Day.

**DETAILS OF ALL
EVENTS WILL BE
POSTED ON THE
WEBSITE**

TREASURES AND BENEFACTORS OF THE COLLEGE LIBRARY

The first part of an edited version of an address given by Valmai Hankel who has recently retired from the position of Keeper of Rare Books at the State Library

University Residential Colleges go back, at least to the 13th century and in Australia to the mid 19th. In Adelaide there was no University residential college until St. Mark's College was opened in 1925 – 51 years after Adelaide University was founded.

The College Library began in those early days with a few books, mainly novels, which were kept in the Senior Common Room (in the large Symon bookcase at the east end). From 1940-1945 when the College was occupied by the Air Force, the books were packed into crates and stored, and in the process some were, not surprisingly damaged, an unfortunately too familiar story.

As any library must do if it is to remain relevant, the collection grew, and was moved to the old stable building, now the Chapel. For a time it went back to Senior Common Room before moving to its present home, the upper floor of the Archibald Grenfell Price Hall, in December 1965.

What of the people who have been involved with it? Like the State Library, St. Mark's College has been enriched by many generous benefactors. And there are several people who have benefited both libraries.

Prominent among them are the Symon family, John Andrew Tennant Mortlock, and Sir Archibald Grenfell Price.

Sir Josiah Symon, lawyer, politician, philanthropist and ardent federalist, tried to establish a residential college for women in the 1920's. He failed, and instead donated

£10,000 for a Women's Union (the Lady Symon Building) at Adelaide University, and insisted that *"it be managed by university women"*. To St. Mark's College he gave a number of books, and the bookcase, which you can see in the Senior Common Room.

One of his children, Charles James B. Symon, presented an important collection of books on French history, as early as 1927, and followed it up in 1938 with 10 volumes of Murray's Oxford Dictionary among other books.

Another son, Carril Hector Symon, gave a bookcase also in 1927, and a sister, Kilmeny Symon, as recently as the mid 1960's gave *"some beautiful and valuable editions"* and *"highly prized Australiana."*

John Andrew Tennant Mortlock was one of the foundation financial supporters of St. Mark's. In his memory his widow, Mrs. Dorothy Mortlock, presented handsome blackwood shelving, known as the "John Mortlock Memorial Bookshelves" from his library after his death in 1950 and in the following year she gave the family coat of arms which now surmounts the shelves. The bookish and withdrawn wealthy pastoralist, gave generously to many South Australian charities and organisations. The Mortlock Library of South Australiana, opened in the State Library in 1986, was named in honour of the library's largest ever bequest.

The first Master, Sir Archibald Grenfell Price was also a member of the Libraries Board of South Australia for many years. In 1936 he was appointed by the government to report on S.A.'s library system. His report, published the following year, had a considerable impact. For instance, as a result three separate Boards for the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery were

established in 1939. He later became the first chairman of the Council of the National Library of Australia, Canberra. St Mark's has many of his books in the library, including a number he wrote himself.

There are a number of other links between St. Mark's and the State Library.

One of the first students was John Glover, who was later on the Board and who had a wonderful library, much of it collected by his father, Adelaide's first Lord Mayor, Charles Richmond John Glover.

Ian Buttrose, non-resident tutor in law, was an active member of the Friends of the Public Library, and wrote its history, published in 1950.

Dr. T. T. Reed, Bishop of Adelaide, and the first resident tutor to be promoted to St. Mark's Council had his book *'The Poetical Works of Henry Kendall'*, published by the Libraries Board of South Australia. He was the donor of many religious books to the Library.

Other people actively associated with the two institutions have included Gavin Walkley and Peter Morgan. Bob Lewis is a former Councillor of the Royal Geographical Society of SA, which is housed, with its wonderful library, in the State Library.

Your current librarian, Pirjo Rayner, is a former State Library staff member, as was at least one of her predecessors, Eve Schilter. And last, but certainly not least, Tony Shinkfield, is currently President of the Friends of the State Library and Chairman of your Building and Grounds Committee.

In looking at the rare book collection I have tended to concentrate on Australiana, as that is one of my fields of expertise. I would like to have mentioned wine books but I couldn't find any in the rare books collection.

S T M A R K ' S

Of course the rare book collection contains many important non-Australasian books. I mentioned earlier the donation by Charles Symon of books on French history.

There is also a handsome series of 7 volumes on French life, published in Paris mostly in the 1870's. One of them, on middle ages and renaissance customs and costumes, I happened to open at a beautiful chromolithographic reproduction of an illustration showing 'table service at the home of a chatelaine' with servants carrying dishes of what looks like bird and dog heads.

The oldest book in the collection is a version published in Paris by Nicolai Buon in 1616 of the 12th century love story *Abelard & Eloise*. This was presented about 6 years ago by the widow of another generous donor to the library, Professor C. R S Harris, in his memory.

Among the books published in the 19th century which caught my eye are two on snuff, '*Nicotiana or the Smokers and Snuff takers Companion*' by Henry James Mellor, published in 1832, and one with the especially long title '*A Pinch of Snuff, composed of curious particulars and original anecdotes of snuff taking; as well as a review of snuff, snuff boxes, snuff shops, snuff takers and snuff papers, with the moral and physical effects of snuff*' published in 1840. The book's author, probably one Benson Earle Hill, hid behind the wonderful nom de plume of Dean Snift of Brazen-nose. It's illustrator, Thomas Gibson, also illustrated Dickens's '*Master Humphries Clock*' and '*The Old Curiosity Shop*', and was considered a favourite with the pre-Raphaelites.

William Howitt (1792- 1879), a Quaker, was a prolific writer, often in collaboration with his wife, Mary. Their first book, a collection of verse, appeared in 1823, 2 years after they were married. In 1847 the first edition was published of Howitt's

Homes and Haunts of the Most Eminent British Poets. The College has the fifth edition, 1863, of this popular work from the library of C.A.S. Hawker. The book provoked disagreement among the critics of the day. For instance, The Athenaeum thundered '*Two gossiping volumes, not very subtle or sound in their criticisms, nor very novel in design and treatment. They are extremely inaccurate in parts with very little of them derived from books, and that little of the commonest kind.*' Apparently Howitt was '*greatly aggrieved*' at this critique.

When he was almost 60, he decided to sail with two of his sons, Alfred, aged 22, and Herbert, aged 14, to Australia and the Victorian gold diggings. Alfred later achieved considerable fame. He was leader of the expedition which found the only survivor, King, of the Burke and Wills expedition, and the bodies of Burke and Wills. He was also a respected pioneer and anthropologist. St Mark's has a pamphlet, *Two historic gumtrees: associated with the Burke & Wills expedition of 1861* by Charles Fenner, published about 1928, and in the general collection you have the Libraries Board of South Australia's facsimile edition, published in 1963 and reprinted in 1971 of *The Burke & Wills exploring expedition: an account of the crossing of the continent of Australia, from Coopers Creek to Carpentaria* originally published in 1861.

The College has at least two examples of the work of English private presses, one an especially splendid publication. This is '*Minor Poems of Edmund Spenser*', published by the Ashendene Press, Chelsea, in July 1925, in an edition of only 215 copies. It was donated by Bob (R.B.) Lewis. 200 copies were printed on paper, 15 on vellum, and took 14 months to produce.

Sir John Hornby operated The Ashendene Press from 1895 to 1935. Like many other press owners he

printed for pleasure and was not interested in making a profit from his books. But because of their sheer quality and beauty they were eagerly collected from the beginning, Hornby had a taste, as he put it, '*for a certain gaiety of treatment in the use of coloured initials and chapter headings*'. The book, like many others from The Ashendene Press, is printed in Subiaco type, which was especially made for it. After the sack of Mainz in 1462, two printers Sweynheim & Panartz wandered south to Italy, and settled north of Rome in the little town of Subiaco. Here they produced three books in a typeface with some of the characteristics of northern Gothic and some of southern Roman. This was the type which Emery Walker and Sidney Cockerall followed in designing their own for Hornby. The volume with its generous margins and elegant design, makes effective use of blue and red. This book is printed on handmade paper bound in vellum with a cowhide spine, and cost 12 guineas when published.

Another private press book is '*Historia*' by Apollonius of Tyre, published by the Golden Cockerel Press in 1956 in an edition of 300 copies. This is one of 225 copies quarter bound in morocco on canvas, that is, with a morocco strip over the spine. It was sold originally for 4 guineas. The handsome book is printed in my favourite typeface, Bembo, on mould-made paper, and the evocative copper engravings are by Mark Severin. The text is a Latin novel of the fifth or sixth century.

The Golden Cockerel Press began in 1920, and ran until about 1961. It was probably the most active of all the private presses of the 20th century, and is best remembered today for its output of the work's of Robert Gibbings and Eric Gill. This book was another gift of the generous Bob Lewis, who has been a major impetus to the library's growth over decades.

WEBSITE

Check out the College website:
www.stmarkscollege.com.au
for all the latest news, pictures and information.

S T M A R K ' S

TREASURES (continued)

Books like these two help people to appreciate the difference between good and bad book design – the size of the type, the use of white space, the layout of type on the page, the look and feel of the paper – and ultimately, therefore, the ability of the reader to take in what she or he is reading. It is not only the actual message in the text, but also the physical way in which it is presented which affects our ability to comprehend the printed word. There are many books in this library of good and bad design, which illustrate this point.

The College is fortunate to have at least one original James Cook item, *'A voyage towards the South Pole, and round the world: performed in His Majesty's Ships the Resolution and Adventure, in the years 1772 (to) 1775'*, published in London in two volumes in 1777. It also has the Libraries Board of South Australia's facsimile. There's something spine-tingling about holding a book like this, published 2 years after Cook himself was killed, and 11 years before the first fleet sailed into Sydney Harbour. On his second voyage, Cook aimed to complete a circumnavigation of the globe in high southern altitudes. The two ships left Plymouth in July 1772, spent nearly a month in Table Bay, and then headed south, making the first recorded crossing of the Antarctic Circle on 17 January 1773. Tobias Furneaux in command of the *'Adventure'*, found his way to Tasmania's east coast, while Cook headed to New Zealand. They then criss-crossed the Southern Pacific for much of 1773, and Cook in the *'Resolution'* reached latitude 17° 10s, a record which stood until 1823 (Weddell). The two vessels had separated. At the end of 1772 Furneaux had a contretemps with

the Maoris at Queen Charlotte Sound, where a boat's crew of two officers and eight seamen were killed and eaten. Not surprisingly, Furneaux made his way back to England, reaching Portsmouth in July 1774, over a year before Cook. Cook's second voyage was one of the longest and most dangerous undertaken. It disproved the long-held belief in the existence of a temperate southern continent.

The publication of the journal is no less interesting. John Reinhold Forster, who joined the voyage as naturalist in place of Joseph Banks, was asked to collaborate with Cook in producing the account of it. Cook would write up the events of the voyage and Forster would contribute a volume of scientific results. But Forster apparently made unreasonable demands, and therefore became involved in a bitter dispute with the First Lord of the Admiralty, Lord Sandwich. Eventually Cook wrote the book and had it edited by one Canon Douglas of Windsor.

The College also has an original edition of *'A voyage to Terra Australis'* by Matthew Flinders. Toward the end of 1813, three years after Flinders returned to England from seven years in exile in Mauritius, and with his health deteriorating, he managed to finish the text. In June 1814, he had the satisfaction of receiving from the publisher, Arrowsmith, a presentation copy of the *'Atlas'* containing a set of all his charts. On 18 July he lapsed into a coma. A few hours later, a copy hot off the press, of the two text volumes of *A voyage to Terra Australis* were delivered to his home and placed on his bed. He died early the following morning without regaining consciousness.

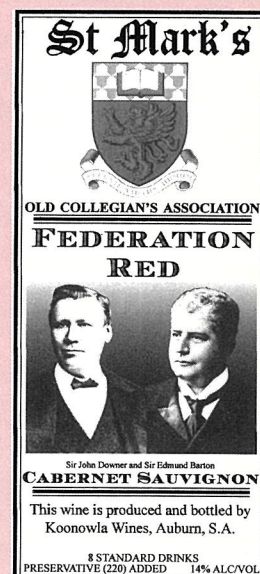
[TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT EDITION]

OLD COLLEGIANS WINE

There are still some cases left of the Federation Red commemorating 100 years of the Federation and the St Mark's connection with the Constitution.

This red from Koonowla wines had a two year wait in the barrel before being released and has been highly praised

Anyone interested in making a purchase please contact the College Office on (08)8334 5600 to place an order. The wine price is \$168 per dozen and can be collected from College once ordered. Please note that postage and handling will incur additional cost.



WEBSITE

Check out the College website: www.stmarkscollege.com.au for all the latest news, pictures and information.

S T M A R K ' S

TREASURES AND
BENEFACTORS OF THE
COLLEGE LIBRARY

This is the second part of an edited version of an address given by Valmai Hankel who has recently retired from the position of Keeper of Rare Books at the State Library (The first part appeared in the December 2001 newsletter. Valmai has recently completed an assessment and report on the Rare Book Collection and its conservation for the College)

The St Mark's Library has a beautiful collection of South Australian, and I'd like briefly to mention just a few items.

The jewel in the crown is undoubtedly 'South Australia Illustrated' by George French Angas, published in London in 1847. The St Mark's copy is in a brilliantly clean and crisp condition, one of the best I have seen. It is perhaps the most important and certainly the most beautiful book ever published on South Australia. It is also the first book of coloured views of South Australia. What a generous gift that was from Professor Peter Parsons! Professor Parsons has also donated many other valuable and important books, including the landmark anthropological works of W. Baldwin Spencer and Frank Gillen. He has also helped to finance the purchase of the library computer and the display cabinet.

A very different volume of leaves is, *Pasquin: the Pastoral, Mineral and Agricultural Advocate*, a weekly paper edited by Eustace Reveley Mitford, from its first number, for 26 January 1867, until he died on 24 October 1869. These three volumes were reprinted in London 1882 and this is what you have. The volumes comprise 979 pages and bear no

illustrations except for a lugubrious portrait of Mitford. The scion of a noble English family, Mitford arrived in Australia in 1839 and spent his life here.

"As a journalist, he has been rarely equalled for fearlessness; and for startling originality he has never been approached in this part of the world. His style of writing was, reckless, fanciful, full of the strangest paradoxes and surprises, sparkling with wit, and often blazing with invective or withering in its sarcasm, in fact it was *sui generis* and altogether unlike anything read before"

wrote the anonymous Preface writer in the reprint.

Much later, Paul de Pasquale, in his book: *A Critical History of South Australian Literature 1836-1930* was equally as laudatory. He wrote that

"Mitford was the scourge of social, political and religious humbug alike. Although cynical about the quality of colonial life, he identified with it: he did not pretend to be what he was not, and his often ornate satirical prose is almost always underlain by acute perception and sardonic philosophy appropriate to his condition in life".

That is a totally inadequate glimpse of an almost forgotten piece of South Australia's literary and cultural history. The Library's copy was given by writer and archivist, Colin Kerr, who would certainly have appreciated Mitford's wit.

May Vivien Rayner, who wrote under the *nom de plume* of Mary Vivienne, was a singer and writer. She chose a musical career and toured with concert companies in Australia and England. You have a copy of the 2nd edition published in 1909, of *Sunny South Australia*. (cont. over).



Scenes from the
'20 Years of Women'
Celebrations.



WILD WEEKEND FOR COLLEGE WOMEN

In 1982 the College admitted women (officially) to St Mark's for the first time and the great tradition of Women in College commenced.

On the weekend of 11-13 October the 'Twenty Years of Women' was celebrated in great style at a number of functions.

On the Friday night a cocktail party was held in the Ballroom of Downer House, a women-only event where the College was claimed by women of the past two decades and festivities commenced. Helen Hopping, first College Club female president proposed the toast.

On Saturday a dinner for the College of 1982 was addressed by guest of Honour former Master Peter Edwards who presided over the transition to co-residence.

The fifty dinner guests then adjourned to join one hundred and twenty of their successors of the next twenty years (and their partners) at the Supper Dance in the Dining Hall. The theme was Female/ Over-the-Top/Eighties, with barbie dolls, hot pink and glitter dominating.

Speakers included Peter Edwards, Prof Jennifer McKay (first Female Assistant Dean) and Angela Evans. The entertainment (apart from the witty conversation and the frocks) was supplied by College Ball perennials Bruce Gray and his band, with a stunning interlude from that heavy rock blast from the College past, No Cause For Alarm. The band, (Andrew Stewart, Mark Calligeros, Anthony Hubmayer and Wayne Nietz) was reformed for the occasion.

The weekend's party was judged to be a huge success. The women's takeover of the College was organised by a Committee headed by Angela Evans with Rose Alwyn, Amber Sprague, Erica Hewitson, Helen Hopping and Liz Potter, ably assisted by Julie Brown (administrator) and Angela Bannon (decorations)

Treasures (continued)

It is an engrossing look at our State, full of evocative word-pictures of the countryside, towns and city, with a selection of people as well. Here is part of her description of the Treasury Building:

“There is such a pretty quadrangle garden in the centre of the public offices, and it must be very pleasant for the Government officials to have the sweet perfume of the flowers coming in at their windows and to look at the pretty scene in place of the usual brick walls and street scenes of public places”.

But either Ms Vivienne or her editor or typesetter didn't know their Ten Commandments too well. In the 1st edition published in 1908, she wrote that, along a road in McLaren Vale

“a row of fine almond trees were just bursting their husks; it was too great a temptation for me I regret to say I broke the seventh commandment, as I could reach then from my seat in the buggy”.

Your copy is inscribed with the author's compliments to Mr. A. Vaughan, Adelaide, October 1910. Later, it was acquired by Lance Milne, who presented it to St. Mark's as part of his Australiana collection in October 1965, before he went to London to be Agent-General for South Australia. The glass-fronted shelves, which house most of the rare books, are named in his honour.

Former Master, Bob Lewis, had a remarkable grandfather, John Lewis. He wrote an action-packed, very readable autobiography, *'Fought and Won'* published in 1922. Explorer, bushman, drover, roughrider, pastoralist, businessman, legislator, historian, racehorse breeder, floriculturist and lover of art and nature, John Lewis was indeed an amazing man. He

has inscribed this copy to His Excellency, Lieutenant General Sir Tom Bridges, Governor of South Australia from 1922-1927. Bridges had a remarkable sister, Philippa. The Englishwoman came to Australia in the mid 1920's, and travelled by camel from Oodnadatta to Tennant Creek accompanied by only two Aborigines. She wrote of her experiences, which were republished in 1996 in an entertaining, inspiring little known book, *Oodnadatta Walkabout* by Frank Shanahan.

Bridges was one of the first benefactors of St. Mark's College Library, presenting a number of books in 1927, of which *'Fought and Won'* was undoubtedly one.

Finally, I'd like to mention *Archaeological Excavations at Fromm's Landing on the Lower Murray River, South Australia* a reprint from the Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria, published in 1960. Its author, eminent archaeologist, prehistorian and Law Professor, D. J. Mulvaney, has inscribed the pamphlet 'in appreciation of the assistance given by the College in this research at Fromm's Landing, 1952 and 1956.' While not a rare or valuable work in itself, it is an example of how much the support of the college meant to one researcher.

This has been a necessarily superficial look at some of the treasures which are of especial interest to me in your rare books collection. It has also been an inadequate glance at the contribution made by just some of the donors to this library, either directly or through their families. There are others I should mention – my apologies for the omissions.

- Sir Henry Simpson Newland
- Charles Hawker
- Mr. Justice Poole
- Professor G. V. Portus
- Canon Docker

- Canon Julian Bickersteth
- Geoffrey Dutton
- J. Angus Maitland
- Robin Ashwin
- Don Dunstan, from whose estate the Library grew by 600 books.

With that background of impressive munificence by way of gifts of books and money and other support, as well as the people who, over the years and still today, actively champion the library, it is no wonder that the St. Mark's College Library is such a treasure trove. I believe that this entire library – its works of reference, its magazines, its general collection and its rare books – is a major unsung contribution to South Australia's information resource as well as to our documentary heritage. This library is very special and should never be taken for granted. It must continue to be relevant, and to be seen as being relevant, to today's students and perhaps to others. It must continue to grow. While the College provides some ongoing budgetary support, like most libraries today, St. Mark's needs to continue that tradition of attracting benefactors which goes back to its very foundations

Williams Goodwin wrote: 'He that revels in a well-chosen library, has innumerable dishes, and all of admirable flavour.'

How appropriate it is then, that the College Library is situated above the College Dining Hall.