

No. 106 September 2021

THE  
LaTROBE

JOURNAL

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Inside front cover: Plaster busts of  
'remarkable persons' displayed in  
Queen's Hall from 1861 onwards.  
Sears' Studios, interior of the  
Queen's Hall, looking north, Public  
Library, Museums and National  
Gallery, photograph: gelatin silver,  
c. 1910, H4740

Page 5: Image by Savina Hopkins of  
COVID-19 vaccination hub shown  
in full below.



Above left: Table viewer for cartes-  
de-visite, 14.9 x 9.4 x 2.9 cm, with 18  
albumen silver cartes-de-visite of  
Paris and Venice, c. 1860 – c. 1869,  
H93.506/1. The viewer has a brass-  
framed magnifier, and the hinged  
top opens to a sliding wooden holder  
for cartes.

Above right: Foy & Gibson, Smith  
Street, Collingwood, postcard  
(detail), c. 1906, Shirley Jones  
collection of Victorian postcards,  
H90.160/1012

Front cover: *Foy & Gibson spring and  
summer catalogue*, no. 78, Melbourne:  
Foy & Gibson, 1928–29, front cover  
(detail) RARELT 658.8710994 F83S

Back cover: Adam Wheeler is a  
regular participant in the Man from  
Snowy River Festival. Unfortunately,  
due to COVID-19, the festival was  
cancelled in 2020. James Wiltshire,  
*Adam Wheeler on his horse, Cudgewa*,  
*Great Alpine region*, 2020 (detail).  
Full image shown below.



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## EDITORIAL

On 27 January 1919, shortly before Victoria was quarantined due to outbreaks of 'Spanish' influenza in its population, the *Geelong Advertiser* reported a 'rush for vaccine' in Melbourne. At a vaccination centre at Melbourne Town Hall two days earlier, 140 people had been inoculated, but many were turned away, as there were not enough assistants available to administer the injections. Outside another centre, on the corner of Swanston and Collins streets, there had been a 'deplorable crush around the door' in which 'women had to jostle with the men, one woman emerging from the room with her blouse disarranged and her dress presenting a crushed appearance'. Victorians today can perhaps sympathise with that unfortunate lady, both in her desire to receive a vaccine and in her possible sense of discombobulation in troubling times. While we wait for mass vaccination, both here and overseas, we are grateful to everyone involved in keeping Victorians as safe as possible, and we send sincere condolences to members of our community experiencing loss through the pandemic.



This issue features some wonderful collection items and stories from the Library, including news of three new collecting initiatives.

Throughout the past year, the Library has been collecting items that record Victoria's experiences of the pandemic. In this issue, Library staff members Toni Burton, Bridie Flynn and Greg Gerrand give brief introductions to the new collections resulting from the Memory Bank: Collective Isolation Project, from Photographing the Pandemic and from the Rural and Regional Photography Commission.

State Library Victoria's rich collections include material relating to the early Melbourne department store chain Foy & Gibson. Annette Cooper's

Opposite: Melbourne's Royal Exhibition Building in the Carlton Gardens was a temporary field hospital in 1919 for the Spanish flu pandemic. Now, over 100 years later, it's a state government COVID-19 vaccination hub. Detail of a photograph by Savina Hopkins, from the Photographing the Pandemic project (full image on page 2).



article tracks the company's history while discussing this collection material and featuring some of its highlights.

The Library's photographic collections are extensive and filled with glimpses into Victoria's past. Librarian Susan Long has kindly made time to answer some questions about the cartes de visite collection and has chosen some examples to demonstrate the abundant social history the cartes contain. The cartes collection recently aided research into 19th-century Melbourne school proprietor Elizabeth McArthur, the subject of Anne Marsden's article. The studio in Melbourne that created the photographic portrait of McArthur reproduced on page 61, and the period in which it was made, were identified with relative certainty through comparisons with the Library's cartes. Also discussed in this issue are recent donations to the Library containing photographs that document the experiences of two Victorian soldiers in the Greek campaign of World War II. Jim Claven explains why they are such important additions to Australian military history.

Three contributors to this issue consider various aspects of State Library Victoria's history. Two discuss items that today may seem unlikely inclusions in a library collection: John Gregory traces the history of the Library's erstwhile large collection of plaster casts, and Christine Bell, a former picture librarian at the La Trobe Library, recalls the unconventional 'deaccessioning' of a particularly volatile object. Finally, the contribution to the Library of Dr Thomas F Bride, chief librarian from 1881 to 1895, is examined by Library staff member Andrew McConville.

Thanks to the endeavours of its supporters, both past and present, professional and voluntary, State Library Victoria continues to build and refine its remarkable collections. We hope that you will enjoy the articles in this issue of the *La Trobe Journal*, which have been inspired and enriched by those collections.