

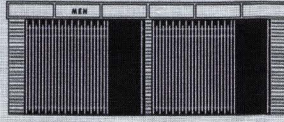
No. 108 2023

THE LaTROBE

JOURNAL



UNIÓN
HOTEL
•disco•



RADICALESBIANS

gay dance
TROPHY HALL



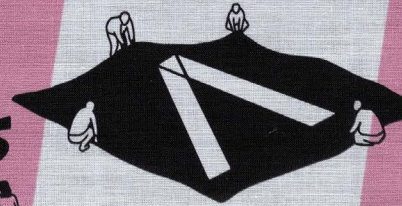
ELGIN ST

Queer-ways

LYGON ST



Society 5



The Anglers Club



HELL
FIRE
CLUB



BRITAIN

No. 108 2023

THE LaTROBE

JOURNAL



STATE LIBRARY
VICTORIA



THE LA TROBE JOURNAL

is published by State Library Victoria.

Managing editors: Meg Sheehan and Nicola Redhouse
Editorial development and copy editing by Meg Sheehan
Proofreading by Greg Alford
Design by Pfisterer + Freeman
Layout by Mark Brewster
Printed by Printgraphics, Victoria, Australia

Editorial address:
Editor, *The La Trobe Journal*
State Library Victoria
328 Swanston Street
Melbourne, Victoria 3000, Australia

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Copies of the journal may be purchased from Readings bookshop at State Library Victoria, and it is free online. slv.vic.gov.au/stories/la-trobe-journal

Back issues can be viewed online through the State Library website. slv.vic.gov.au/stories/la-trobe-journal
For issues up to 2011 go to: latrobejournal.slv.vic.gov.au/latrobejournal/index.html

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State Library Victoria acknowledges the traditional lands of all the Victorian Aboriginal clans, and their cultural practices and knowledge systems.

We recognise that our collections hold traditional cultural knowledge belonging to Indigenous communities in Victoria and around the country. We support communities to protect the integrity of this information, gathered from their Ancestors in the colonial period.

We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present, who have handed down these systems of practice to each new generation for millennia.

Above left: A mouse skin glued to the inside cover of *An atlas of modern geography: constructed from the latest observations and discoveries for the use of schools* (1842) by J Arrowsmith, from the library of Thomas Scott. RARETS 912 AR698A.

Above right: Ruth Hollick, *Quentin Cain*, transparency: glass lantern slide, 8.1 x 8.1 cm, c. 1910–1930, H93.500/98.

Front cover: Georgia Metaxas, *Hellenic Dancefest series, Crown Casino, 19 September 1999*, Photographic print (gelatin silver, selenium toned), 17 x 24 cm, 1999, H2000.142/4.

Back cover: Clarice Beckett, *Evening*, oil on board, 30.5 x 41 cm, 1926, H2022.184. Purchased with the assistance of the Vera Moore Foundation, 2022.

Inside front cover: Luciano, Georgia Keats and Australian Queer Archives, *Carlton (Yern-da-ville) bandana*, cotton voile, 55 x 55 cm, 2021, H2023.66/5.

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Editorial

After several years of virtual experiences, in 2023 State Library Victoria's wonderful community of book lovers, families, students and creatives returned in droves. The Library passed a new visitation record, with over 2 million people visiting us in a single year. Online, our services boomed during lockdowns, with thousands of people discovering the depth of the Library's online offerings: archives, digitised collections, eBooks, daily newspapers and more. These services and collections have continued to grow, and visits to our online platforms grew alongside them, setting a new record of over 6 million visits. We thank all our members, donors and visitors for your continued support of the Library.

This year's *La Trobe Journal* profiles our wonderful collections and new exhibitions, and takes you behind the scenes to see our expert staff at work. In May, we opened *MIRROR: New views on photography* in Victoria Gallery. *MIRROR* takes a deep-dive into the Library's extensive and diverse photography collection, with creative responses from Victorian storytellers. Here, poet Lay the Mystic's video response has been adapted for the page.

Our second major exhibition for 2023, *Luminous: A thousand years of Hebrew manuscripts*, opened in October in the Keith Murdoch Gallery. We share a few highlights from this exhibition from the collections of the British Library, State Library Victoria's David Hailperin collection, and the Jewish Museum of Australia.

This issue of the *La Trobe Journal* has a strong focus on the lives and achievements of Victorian women. Nina Whittaker and Dr Natalie Senjov-Makohon build a history of the Sisters of St Basil and the Prosvita Press, a community printing press in North Melbourne that served the Ukrainian community for decades. Susan Long delves into the photographic archive to uncover the lost names of Victoria's earliest female photographers. Ana-Maria Traian traces the story of 'the famous Mrs Fanny Finch', the first woman known to have cast a ballot in Victoria. And six of Victoria's beloved writers



Guests at *GUTFUL: A bug in the system*, co-presented by State Library Victoria and APHIDS. Photo by Eugene Hyland.

play a ‘game of telephone’, constructing a collaborative story in response to an illustration from the collection.

Beyond Victorian women, Dr Anna Welch looks at new acquisitions from the Women Writers Fund, including a first edition of Virginia Woolf’s *To the Lighthouse* and first editions of Jane Austen’s *Persuasion* and *Northanger Abbey*, featuring the first-ever mention of Austen’s name in print.

The other theme of issue 108 is our relationship with landscapes and mapping. Professor Barry Golding describes how his Library fellowship has given him the opportunity to look deeply at the history of six mountains near his home in central Victoria. Meg Sheehan traces the history of early panoramic photography represented in the Library’s collections. Sarah Ryan shares a unique approach to mapping in newly acquired bandanas by artists Luciano and Georgia Keats, part of the *Queer-ways* digital community cartography project.

We also go behind the scenes with the preservation team to find out how items entering the State Collection are assessed and treated before they hit the shelves. And Dr Anna Welch shares the joys and discoveries to be had from dedicated research time in one of the world’s great print collections at the British Museum.

Finally, for those of you who haven’t emerged from a lockdown-inspired bout of experimental cooking, we share some recipes from the archives to inspire you for the summer.

We hope that this issue of the *La Trobe Journal* provides a host of new ideas for how you can get involved with your state library – whether you take creative inspiration, start that family history project or visit our free exhibitions, we’ll see you at the Library soon.