Cooper: It’s smart to be thrifty

My thanks go to my sister, Denise Clarke; Sally Heath, editor of the La Trobe Journal; Penny Mansley, copy editor; and Margot Jones, publishing project manager at State Library Victoria, for assistance in the editing of this article.

Note: The exquisite fashion illustrations in State Library Victoria’s collection ‘Manton’s portfolio of fashion designs 1929’ have recently been found to have been misattributed to Manton’s department store. It is thought that the label ‘Manton for magazines’, on front of the portfolio, may have led to the error – it relates to bookseller and publisher Jervis Manton (of the Nicholas Building, Swanston Street, Melbourne), who has no connection to the store. See ‘Creations of haute couture summer 1929 no. 2’, 1929, Pictures Collection, H87.188/1-31 (‘Portfolio of fashion designs 1929’), State Library of Victoria (hereafter SLV).

Notes


3 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 3

4 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 5

5 ‘Sydney Snow, Ltd’, Worker (Wagga Wagga), 7 November 1912, p. 4

6 Fred Williams, ‘Threat of first derby win’, Sunday Mail (Brisbane), 5 March 1939, p. 24

7 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 37

8 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 62

9 Paull’s advertisement, Sun (Sydney), 29 September 1921, p. 3

10 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 62

11 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 73

12 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 74

13 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 74

14 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 74

15 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 82

16 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 83

17 ‘The Theatre Royal’, Argus (Melbourne), 10 July 1855, p. 5

18 ‘Burning of the Theatre Royal’, Argus (Melbourne), 20 March 1872, p. 5

19 ‘Burning of the Theatre Royal’, 1872, p. 5

20 George Browne, ‘Collection of architectural drawings for the Theatre Royal, Bourke Street Melbourne, by George Browne with alterations by William Pitt and others’, notes accompanying drawings, 1872–1933, Melbourne University architectural collection, WD/THE/16/1-38, SLV

21 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 84

22 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 86


24 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 87.


Another possible origin is Macy’s department store. See, for example, Stefan Kanfer, ‘A brief history of shopping’, City Journal, 12 October 2018, accessed 10 July 2019, www.city-journal.org/brief-history-shopping-16232.html;


Sidney Myer was the founder of Myer department store.
27 ‘New store on historic Bourke Street site’,
Herald (Melbourne), 5 April 1934, p. 38
28 ‘Important purchase by Mantons’, Argus
(Melbourne), 29 October 1936, p. 4
29 ‘Manton’s open new store for men
tomorrow’, Herald (Melbourne),
7 October 1937, p. 33
30 ‘Store buys £300,000 site in Bourke St.’, Age
(Melbourne), 15 July 1954, p. 8
31 ‘Manton and Sons: extensions in Bourke
St.’, Argus (Melbourne), 10 May 1941, p. 2
32 ‘Store buys £300,000 site in Bourke St.’,
1954, p. 8; ‘Company report: Manton
and Sons Ltd. annual meeting’, Argus
(Melbourne), 30 October 1951, p. 12
33 Pegg Wyks’ ‘air-mails’ are similar in style
to Reta Findlay’s ‘air mail diaries’, which
appeared in the Herald (Melbourne)
in 1946 during her travels overseas for
Georges, the exclusive Collins Street
department store. One wonders if they
may have even served as inspiration.
34 Pegg Wyks, ‘Our London air-mail’, Age
(Melbourne), 10 April 1937, p. 21
35 Pegg Wyks, ‘Our London air-mail’, Age
(Melbourne), 11 September 1937, p. 10
36 Pegg Wyks, ‘Our London air-mail’, Argus
(Melbourne), 12 February 1938, p. 31
37 Pegg Wyks, ‘Our London air-mail’, Age
(Melbourne), 22 May 1937, p. 10
38 Pegg Wyks, ‘Our London air-mail’, Argus
(Melbourne), 27 November 1937, p. 36
39 Pegg Wyks, ‘Our London air-mail’, Age
(Melbourne), 21 August 1937, p. 8
40 ‘Manton and Sons’, Argus (Melbourne),
29 September 1937, p. 13
41 ‘Society weddings filmed’, Courier-Mail
(Brisbane), 8 October 1938, p. 2
42 ‘Manton-Wenzel wedding at Toorak’, Argus
(Melbourne), 4 October 1938, p. 8
43 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 84
44 ‘Plaque will mark historic site’, Herald
(Melbourne), 7 October 1937, p. 33
45 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 111
46 ‘Bring your ration problems to Manton’s’,
Herald (Melbourne), 13 June 1942, p. 9
47 ‘One lighted window may cost a thousand
lives’, Herald (Melbourne), 11 April 1942,
p. 9
48 ‘So you’re in the army now?’, Herald
(Melbourne), 21 June 1940, p. 9
49 ‘Sweetheart bonnets’, Advocate
(Melbourne), 19 March 1942, p. 14
50 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 111
51 Order his CHRISTMAS CAKE now!’, Argus
(Melbourne), 7 September 1943, p. 12
52 For example, ‘What! No Mantons!’,
Herald (Melbourne), 19 June 1943, p. 2
53 ‘Mantons to oppose tax ruling’, Argus
(Melbourne), 23 October 1945, p. 6
54 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 82
55 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 107
56 ‘Til You Drop: Shopping – A Melbourne
History, exhibition notes, SLV, 2010
57 Manuscript biography of Lallah Dredge
nee Ellerton, p. 2, Coles Myer archive,
MS 13468, COMY16686, Manuscripts
Collection, SLV
58 ‘Shop-window bridge’, Herald (Melbourne),
23 July 1931, p. 14
59 Manton’s advertisement, Age (Melbourne),
8 October 1937, p. 11
60 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 107
61 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 101
62 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 82
63 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 91
64 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 107
Myer archive, MS 13468, COMY07849,
Australian Manuscripts Collection, SLV
66 Coles Myer Ltd, ‘The story so far, Coles
Myer Ltd’, 1990, n.p., Coles Myer archive,
MS 13468, Australian Manuscripts
Collection, SLV
67 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 134
68 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 135
69 ‘The Manton story’, 1955, p. 4
70 ‘Manton’s last day’, Argus (Melbourne),
2 July 1955, p. 11
71 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 137
72 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 139
Coles Myer archive, MS 13468, Australian
Manuscripts Collection, SLV
74 Diane Sydenham, ‘Coles, Sir George James
(1885–1977)’, Australian Dictionary of
Biography, National Centre of Biography,
Australian National University, published
first in hard copy 1993, published online,
accessed 2 August 2019, adb.anu.edu.au/
biography/coles-sir-george-james-9788
75 ‘Vale, March 1994’, Papua New Guinea
Association of Australia, March 1994,
accessed 10 October 2018, www.pngaa.net/
Vale/vale_mar94.htm
76 Jack Manton and Patrick McCaughey,
Australian Painters of the Heidelberg School:
the Jack Manton collection, Melbourne:
Oxford University Press, 1979, p. 147
77 Manton and McCaughey, Australian
Painters of the Heidelberg School, 1979,
pp. 40, 86, 98
78 Manton, A Manton or Two, 1983, p. 144
79 ‘Biographical cuttings on Jack Manton,
former retailer and art collector,
containing one or more cuttings from
newspapers or journals’, National Library of Australia, BLOG 448018

80 ‘Workmen with time capsule found during extensions to former Manton’s store Bourke Street Melbourne Coles Store no. 200’, Sun (Melbourne), September 1977, Coles Myer archive, MS 13468, Australian Manuscripts Collection, SLV

Soumilas: Dreamer and visionary

1 Jessie Deakin Clarke (nee Brookes, 1914–2014), a social worker, was a granddaughter of Australia’s second, fifth and seventh prime minister, Alfred Deakin (1856–1919), and the daughter of Herbert Robinson Brookes (1867-1963) and Ivy Deakin Brookes (1883–1970). During the 1930s she was junior delegate to the League of Nations Union in Geneva and an activist on behalf of refugees. She married William Anthony Francis Clarke (1908–53) in 1939 and founded the Nappie Wash delivery service after World War II. See Annette Soumilas, ‘I was the state of Victoria’: Jessie Clarke’s 1934 Pageant of Nations costume’, La Trobe Journal, no. 102, 2018, pp. 76–88.

2 Soumilas, ‘I was the state of Victoria’, 2018, pp. 76–87

3 ‘Adelaide girl succeeds’, Mail (Adelaide), 22 September 1934, p. 9

4 ‘Art students success’, Barrier Miner (Broken Hill), 1925; ‘A successful beginning’ Mail (Adelaide) 1925, articles pasted by Afford into scrapbook, book 1, 1931–36, p. 5, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, MLMSS 7769/2

5 Dr Charles Fenner, superintendent of technical education, Department of Education, South Australia, introduced the teaching of art into Adelaide’s high schools. This was seen as quite revolutionary at the time, because art was considered purely practical, and art history was not taught in schools. The students attended classes and lectures at the South Australian School of Arts and Crafts, the South Australian Teachers’ College and the University of Adelaide. Thelma Afford, Dreamers and Visionaries: Adelaide’s little theatres from the 1920s to the early 1940s, ed. Kerrie Round, Sydney: Currency Press, 2004, pp. 8, 147


7 In 1979, Thelma Afford received a grant from the South Australian government to research and record the early Adelaide little theatres and their outstanding personalities. Afford, Dreamers and Visionaries, 2004, p. xv. Afford left a legacy to enable publication of her manuscript ‘Dreamers and visionaries’. Currency Press published the book, after further work and editing by Kerrie Round at the University of Adelaide, in 2004.

8 Afford, Dreamers and Visionaries, 2004, p. 9

9 Delightful Hay, ‘Excellent work by W.E.A. Little Theatre players’, News (Adelaide), 8 June 1931, p. 6

10 ‘Modernists come to Adelaide’, News (Adelaide), 13 January 1932, p. 2

11 Frank Perkins (1903–92) changed his name to Kester Berwick and then to Kester Baruch after founding Ab-Intra Studio with Alan Harkness. He worked in advertising and was a reporter, writer, lecturer and theatre producer. He later taught literature and English language overseas, spending time in Austria, England and Greece. Perkins was introduced to theosophy at a young age by his mother, who regularly attended meetings in Adelaide. Alan Harkness (1908-52), born in Western Australia, studied art at the Melbourne National Gallery School, later joining the Allan Wilkie Shakespearean Company before establishing Ab-Intra Studio with Baruch in Adelaide. Harkness travelled overseas with Baruch and was awarded a scholarship to study with Michael Chekov’s studio players (1940). He travelled extensively with the players, touring North America, then started his own company in California called the High Valley Theatre. He married actress Mechthild Johannsen and they moved to Switzerland, where he was tragically killed in a car accident. Founded by Helena Petrovna Blavatsky and Henry Steel Olcott in New York in 1875, theosophy became an extensive influence on modernism in Australia. Theosophy arrived in Adelaide in 1891 and is still active there today. See Duggan Laurie, Ghost Nation: imagined space and Australian visual culture, 1901–1939, Brisbane: University of Queensland Press, 2001, p. 102; Jill Roe, ‘Adelaide Theosophical Society’, SA History Hub, History Trust of South Australia, first published online 2015, accessed 31 January 2020, sahistoryhub.com.au/organisations/adelaide-theosophical-society.

Sir Robert Murray Helpmann, CBE (1909–86) was an Australian ballet dancer, actor, director and choreographer of international repute. He acted with Thelma Thomas in the Ab-Intra Studio production of The Stained Glass Window, a short series of dance postures devised and choreographed by Helpmann and performed in September 1932. Heather Gell (1896–1988), who introduced Dalcroze eurhythmics to Adelaide, collaborated with Ab-Intra Studio on its July 1933 program Plastic Interpretations, movements of music. Joan Joske (1904–60) was an exponent of absolute dance, inspired by Isadora Duncan. She performed her original dances at Ab-Intra Studio in 1932. Colin Ballantyne (1908–88) was an Australian theatre director, photographer, producer, playwright and actor. He photographed Ab-Intra Studio productions.


Dame Sybil Thorndike (1882–1976) was a British Shakespearean actress who toured internationally. She attended a private performance given by Ab-Intra Studio during her Australian tour in 1932.

‘Player’, Modern theatre artistry: visitor from Ab-Intra, Herald (Melbourne), 27 January 1934, p. 15

New Zealander Leslie Thomas (dates unknown) was a colleague of Alan Harkness who collaborated with Ab-Intra Studio, designing costumes for Joan Joske’s performance in 1932. He later worked in London as a theatre designer under the name of David or Raymond Bethel.

Dorothy Chatterton, ‘Looking at the latest shows’, News (Adelaide), 4 January 1934, p. 10

Archibald Law, Nebuchadnezzar; or, This Great Babylon: a spectacular historical drama, Melbourne: Fraser & Morphet, 1934, SLV, Rare Books Collection, RARES 808.82 D79 (performed at Garrick Theatre, Melbourne, 1–4 August 1934)

Thomas played the daughter of the king, portraying her part with ‘understanding and success’. ‘Historical drama: Dr. Law’s Nebuchadnezzar’, Argus (Melbourne), 2 August 1934, p. 11

‘Riot of oriental colour at the Garrick, spectacular dresses at “Nebuchadnezzar”’, Herald (Melbourne), 3 August 1934, p. 18

‘Centenary pageant’, Woman’s World, 1 November 1934, pp. 23–25

‘Clever Adelaide designer and actress returns’, Mail (Adelaide), 26 January 1935, p. 16

‘Designer of costumes for pageants: Miss Thelma Thomas’s work’, Herald (Melbourne), 1 May 1937, p. 25

‘Splendid international pageant: the nations of the world offer felicitations to Victoria upon reaching her hundredth year’, Argus (Melbourne), 23 October 1934, p. 5

Thomas had collaborated with Gell in 1933 when Plastic Interpretations was staged at Ab-Intra Studio. Afford, Dreamers and Visionaries, 2004, p. 194. An adaptation by Gell of The Blue Bird by Belgian playwright and poet Maurice Maeterlinck (1862–1949) was performed at the Theatre Royal, Adelaide, in December 1933. Alex Burnard, “The Blue Bird”: grace, color and music at Royal, Advertiser (Adelaide), 12 December 1933, p. 14

‘Historical tap dance’, Advertiser (Adelaide), 15 July 1936, p. 10

‘Designer of pageant costumes’, Daily Telegraph (Sydney), 27 April 1937, p. 9

‘Costumes for pageants: designer from Adelaide’, Sydney Morning Herald, 10 June 1937, p. 21

Max (Malcolm) Afford (1906–54) was an Australian playwright and novelist. His plays were performed in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. He was staff dramatist at the Australian Broadcasting Commission and wrote plays for radio. After his death Thelma Afford established a fund for the Max Afford Playwrights’ Award.

Cowley: Photobooks and the State Library Victoria collection


2 Art-Union, vol. 8, 1846, opp. p. 143, Rare Books Collection, RARESF 705 AR7J (1846)


7 See, for example, *Fine Photobooks from an Important Private Collection*, auction catalogue, New York: Christie’s, 10 April 2008


9 Parr and Badger, *The Photobook*, vol. 1, 2004, p. 6


**State Library Victoria staff: Vincent Kelly photographic studio, Bendigo**

1 Arthur Whiting, *Retouching*, London: Dawbarn & Ward, 1908


3 ‘Hawker’s gifts to charity’, *Herald* (Melbourne), 13 June 1939, p. 1

**Say: Thomas Hannay, photographer**

This article draws on the previous research of people who generously shared their knowledge with me. I would like to thank Vern McCallum and his brother-in-law Geoff Corner, and Jan Warracke, Peter Cuffley and David Oldfield at the Maldon Museum and Archives. My sincere thanks to them all. Thanks also to my colleague David Hamilton, whose great-grandfather Rev. William Hamilton features in the Hannay photographs, and to Dr Michael Kaines, son of Raymond Hannay Kaines, for generously responding to queries about his grandmother.


3 James Pfund, letter, 6 October 1853, Australian Manuscripts Collection, MS 13316

4 ‘Unassisted passenger lists’, 1853, Public Record Office Victoria, Colonial Secretary’s Office, VA 856, VPRS 947/P0, unit 55, Ann Dashwood
5 Lindsay Proudfoot and Dianne Hall, *Imperial Spaces: placing the Irish and Scots in colonial Australia*, Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2011, p. 61


7 ‘1851 England, Scotland and Wales census’


9 ‘Maldon’, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 7 December 1883, p. 3. This article wrongly describes Charles Hannay as ‘Mr. Thomas Hannay, senior’.

10 ‘The late Mr. Hannay’, *Tarrangower Times*, 29 September 1897, p. 3

11 Jonathan George Moon, *Tarrangower, Past and Present: a history of Maldon from 1853; guide, business directory, and calendar, reminiscences of the good old times*, Maldon: Howliston, Tate, 1864, p. 36, Rare Books Collection, RARELT 994.5 V66 (v.6)


13 Advertisement, *Kyneton Observer*, 15 September 1857, p. 2; 25 September 1857, p. 2. The earlier edition gave the name as ‘G. Hannay’, but in the later edition it was corrected to ‘C. Hannay’.

14 Advertisement, *Mount Alexander Mail*, 23 October 1857, p. 4


16 Davies, *The Mechanical Eye in Australia*, 1885, p. 114


18 ‘Business notices’, *Portland Guardian*, 5 September 1859, p. 3

19 Elizabeth Reed and Steven Bourne, ‘New evidence confirms Thomas Hannay as the first photographer of Naracoorte caves and emphasises the importance of historical writing in caves’, *Helictite*, vol. 44, 2018, pp. 45–58

20 *The Leader: a weekly journal of news, politics, literature and art*, vol. 10, no. 325, 22 March 1862, p. 1

21 *Tarrangower Times*, 8 October 1861, p. 2; 22 October 1861, p. 2

22 WH Archer, *Catalogue of the Victorian Exhibition, 1861: with prefatory essays indicating the progress, resources and physical characteristics of the colony*, Melbourne: John Ferres, 1861


26 ‘Local news’, *Bell’s Life in Sydney & Sporting Reviewer*, 1 November 1856, p. 3

27 ‘Death of Master Butterfly’, *Bell’s Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle* (Melbourne), 3 September 1859, p. 2

28 ‘Business notices’, *Portland Guardian*, 5 September 1859, p. 3

Clyde Company, journal, 1858, p. 12, Australian Manuscripts Collection, Clyde Company and Golf Hill records, MS 9248, box list 3 R

George Russell, ‘Narrative of George Russell’, 1881, p. 256, Australian Manuscripts Collection, Clyde Company and Golf Hill records, MS 9248, list 6 A, item 3, vol. 3

Advertisement, *Geelong Advertiser and Intelligencer*, 9 October 1855, p. 4

Russell, ‘Narrative of George Russell’, 1881, p. 229


Russell, ‘Narrative of George Russell’, 1881, p. 230

‘Magistrates for the central bailiwick’, *Supplement to the Bendigo Advertiser*, 15 July 1885, p. 1


Thomas Hannay and Elizabeth Smith, marriage certificate, 1862, Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages Victoria, Melbourne, registration no. 4251

Thomas Hannay, death certificate, 1897, Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages Victoria, Melbourne, registration no. 8071

Louisa Scott, birth certificate, 1870, Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages Victoria, Melbourne, registration no. 17820

‘Family notices’, *Register* (Adelaide), 16 July 1923, p. 8

‘Castlemaine’, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 2 June 1892, p. 2.

**O’Conor: The Ken Pound Collection of children’s books**


5 *The Fairy Story That Came True*, illustrated by Ida Rentoul Outhwaite, Australia: British Imperial Oil Company, c. 192?, p. 16

6 *The Garden Year with Mr. Bear*, Sydney: Arthur Yates & Co., 1940


**Holm: Curious creatures and bushland beasts**


6 Mary Grant Bruce, *Timothy in Bushland*, illustrated by J MacFarlane, London: Ward, Lock, 1912

Contributors

**Joshua Cassidy** is a preservation technician at State Library Victoria.

**Annette Cooper** holds bachelor’s degrees in both arts and science. She has worked as a researcher and producer in the ABC’s natural history and science units and has had a lifelong interest in social history, especially Melbourne’s retail history. She is the author of *Remembering Georges: stories from Melbourne’s most elegant store* (Melbourne Books, 2014).

**Des Cowley** is a librarian at State Library Victoria. He is co-curator of its permanent exhibition *World of the Book* and co-author of *The World of the Book* (2007), published by Miegunyah Press in association with State Library Victoria. He has contributed numerous articles to the *La Trobe Journal*.

**Stephanie Holm** is an illustrator and author with a particular interest in natural history illustration. She has a PhD in natural history illustration from the University of Newcastle. Her natural history-themed colouring book, *Wildscapes: an Australian art therapy colouring book*, was published by Murdoch Books in 2015. She won the 2015 Newcastle Herald Short Story Award, was a finalist in 2016, and in the 2018 competition received a Commended Award for a story from her Creative Fellowship project.

**Monika McIntyre** is the digitising and document delivery manager at State Library Victoria. She has been involved in digitising projects at the Library for over ten years.

**Jane Miller** has worked as a reference librarian at State Library Victoria since 1993 and more recently has supported projects in the Pictures Collection.

**Juliet O’Conor** worked as a librarian at State Library Victoria for over 30 years. Her expertise lies in narrative analysis and literary history, and she has a PhD in Indigenous Australian children’s books. She has published numerous refereed journal articles and is author of *Bottersnikes and Other Lost Things* (2009), published by Miegunyah Press in association with State Library Victoria. She has contributed several articles to the *La Trobe Journal*.

**Madeleine Say** is a librarian. She was the Pictures Collection manager at State Library Victoria from 2002 to 2019. One of her maternal forebears, Annie (Holman) Hunt, arrived in Portland in 1852, stepped off the boat to marry a Mr Thurman and would have known many of the scenes captured by Thomas Hannay. She has previously contributed to the *La Trobe Journal*.

**Annette Soumilas** has a master’s degree in costume design with the Teatro alla Scala, Milan, Italy. She prepares historic dress to conservation standards for fashion and textiles exhibitions in Australia and overseas. She is an educator and researcher specialising in costume and dress and with a specific interest in 19th- and early 20th-century clothing and costume. Her contribution to *The La Trobe Journal* no. 102 was on Jessie (Brookes) Clarke, who wore the centenary of Victoria costume.