

State Library Victoria Digital Fellowship

The Digital Fellowship has been established to:

- encourage new forms of scholarship using the Library's digitised collections and datasets for digital humanities research
- foster the development of innovative ways of aggregating, navigating, searching or browsing the Library's digitised collections to increase their utility and discoverability
- enhance the experience, and understanding, of iconic physical items in the Library's collection through the creative application of digital technologies.

Projects must address one or both of the following challenges:

- create a digital experience that will bring one or some of our key physical collection items alive
- use our open data sets to demonstrate a new way to explore or enhance our digitised content.

To help you get started, read on for a general introduction to the variety and breadth of the Library's collections.

Exploring our collections

1. Where to start if you are not familiar with our collections

Visit our website to browse our collections by <u>format</u> and by <u>theme</u>.

Or visit the Library on-site to view items from our collections on display, including:

- the World of the book exhibition
- the <u>Changing face of Victoria</u> exhibition
- the <u>Cowen Gallery</u>.

2. About our digitisation program

State Library Victoria has digitised over 745,000 collection items, resulting in more than 3.1 million digitised files. The digitised items include pictures, glass plate negatives, maps and plans, pamphlets and theatre programmes, posters, manuscripts, serials and newspapers.

Digitised newspapers can be accessed via <u>Trove</u>. All other digitised items can be accessed via the <u>catalogue</u>.

Depending on the copyright status, cultural sensitivities, agreements with copyright owners and risk profile, high- or low-resolution files can be downloaded free of charge.

The Library has also developed the <u>Digital Image Pool</u>, which allows access to over 191,000 digitised pictorial items that are out of copyright or where copyright has been



assigned to the State Library. These restriction-free images are available to reuse and remix.

Some key digitised collection formats

Collection type	Total (items)	File type / resolution	Example collections
Pictures	336,135	TIFF, 300dpi	<u>Argus collection, Wolfgang</u> <u>Sievers, Theatre portraits</u>
Glass	53,546	TIFF, 300dpi	Max Thomson collection, JH Harvey collection
Pamphlets/theatre programmes	29,000	PDF, 300dpi (original tiffs archived)	<u>Theatre programme</u> <u>collection</u> , <u>Domestic</u> <u>science pamphlets</u>
Maps	28,839	TIFF, 300dpi	<u>Mahlstedt plans, Victorian</u> county maps, <u>Parish plans</u>
Serials	11,548	PDF, 300dpi (original tiffs archived)	<u>Australasian decorator &</u> painter, <u>The Traveller</u>
Posters	10,966	TIFF, 300dpi	<u>Troedel posters, Red Planet</u> posters
Architectural drawings	8,000	TIFF, 300dpi	Melbourne University Architectural Collection
Manuscripts	5,412	TIFF, 300dpi	Joseph Jenkins diaries, Records of Coles Myer

Digitising equipment

Capture is undertaken using a variety of equipment including:

- digital cameras
- flatbed scanners
- Bookeye overhead planetary scannersZeutschel overhead scanners
- Contex roller transport scanner
- Flextight negative/slide scanners.

Formats captured include:

- photographic material including prints, negatives and slides •
- glass formats
- artistic works including paintings, sketches and drawings •
- realia



- sketchbooks and photographic albums
- pamphlets, journals and monographs
- maps, plans, architectural drawings and posters
- manuscripts and rare books
- newspapers (digitised from film and hard copy).

3. Unique items and collections

Ned Kelly's armour



Digitised item

Catalogue record

- Ned Kelly is Australia's most famous bushranger.
- The armour consists of the backplate, breastplate, shoulderplate and the helmet, which now symbolises the Kelly legend.
- The armour is crudely constructed from parts of ploughs, pieces of leather and iron bolts, and weighs over 40 kilograms.
- After the siege of Glenrowan, the sets of armour belonging to the Kelly Gang were widely dispersed.
- The set of armour belonging to the Library is the most complete configuration since Kelly wore it in 1880.

Jerilderie Letter





Digitised item

Catalogue record

- One of only two original documents by Ned Kelly that are known to have survived.
- The letter brings Ned Kelly's distinctive voice to life, and offers readers a unique insight into the man behind the legend.
- It was dictated by Ned Kelly to Joe Byrne in February 1879, and is the only document providing a direct link to the Kelly gang and the events with which they were associated.
- Approximately 8000 words long, this letter has been described as Ned Kelly's 'manifesto'. It passionately articulates his pleas of innocence and desire for justice.
- The letter remained in private hands until it was generously donated to the Library in 2000.
- Peter Carey used the Jerilderie Letter as inspiration for his Booker Prize-winning novel, *True history of the Kelly Gang*.



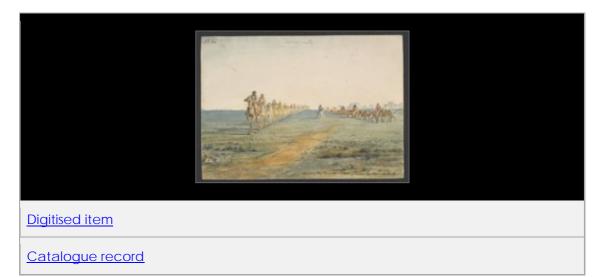
Peter Lalor's pistol

Catalogue record

- This pistol was owned by Peter Lalor, leader of the miners at the Eureka Stockade uprising in Ballarat in December 1854.
- It is believed Lalor used the pistol during the riot.
- The Eureka Stockade is a key event in the development of Australian democracy and Australian identity.
- Lalor was badly wounded in the Eureka uprising, eventually losing his left arm. He and 13 others were charged with treason but were later acquitted.
- Peter Lalor was elected to represent Ballarat in parliament in 1855, a position he held for 32 years.



Records of the Victorian Exploring Expedition (Burke and Wills)



- In 1860, Burke and Wills set out from Melbourne to travel across the Australian continent to the Gulf of Carpentaria on the northern coast.
- Officially named the Victorian Exploring Expedition, this venture was funded entirely by the newly independent colony of Victoria.
- The records were presented to the Library by the Exploration Committee of the Royal Society of Victoria in 1874. They contain the minutes, accounts and correspondence of the Committee, recovered field records of the expedition, equipment and relics.
- Particularly significant and beautiful are the drawings and watercolours of Ludwig Becker.
- In an age before convenient photography, skilled scientific illustrators like Becker were necessary to record the discoveries the expedition hoped to make. His brilliant renderings of landscapes, people and wildlife remain the outstanding treasure of an otherwise failed venture.

Records of Coles Myer Ltd

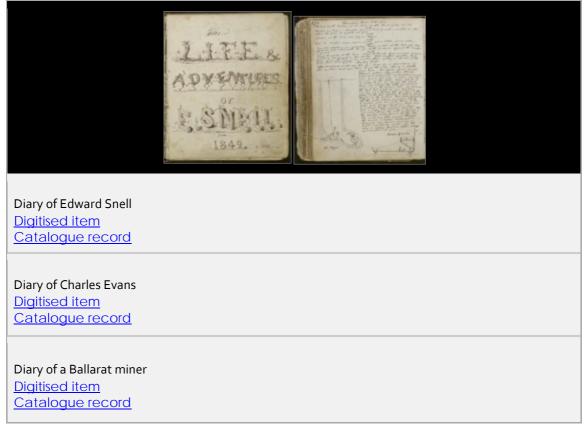


View the collection online



- Coles Myer is the largest collection ever donated to the Library, with records dating back to the 1840s.
- Coles Myer have made a significant contribution to the retail history of Australia and the records provide documentary and visual evidence of this.
- The collection consists of approximately one linear kilometre of company documents, reports, correspondence, and catalogues, as well as items such as advertisements, photographs, clothing, staff uniforms and store fittings.
- The archive is much more than a corporate history of Coles Myer, providing an economic, social and cultural record of Australia over a 160 year period.

Diaries of Edward Snell, Charles Evans and a Ballarat miner



- Three outstanding diaries documenting life on the goldfields.
- The discovery of gold in Victoria had a major impact on Australia's economy. Victoria contributed more than one-third of the world's gold output in the 1850s and in just two years the state's population had grown from 77,000 to 540,000.
- Diaries record the social and cultural habits of the period they are written in and in some cases they document the basic occurrences of everyday life, which may not be captured in more public historical records.
- Edward Snell diary records his experiences between 1849 and 1859 in South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria – where, after spending several months on the Bendigo goldfields, he won the contract to build the Geelong to Melbourne Railway, Australia's first country railway.
- Snell was a skilled artist and his diary with its profuse illustrations, ranging from detailed studies of insects and animals to quickly sketched, humorous impressions



of everyday life, presents a vivid and slightly irreverent picture of the society and land he discovered.

 These three diaries have been included on the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register.

Port Phillip Papers



- The Port Phillip Papers are the foundation documents of European settlement in the Port Phillip and Melbourne region.
- The documents are important records of contact between European settlers and the local Kulin people, and in particular the 'treaty' signed between John Batman and the Kulin remains relevant to on-going debates on land rights and reconciliation.
- The papers also record the cross-cultural experience of the escaped convict William Buckley, with rare insights into Aboriginal culture before white settlement.
- The papers include the field book of John Helder Wedge, which describes his journey around Port Phillip, Geelong and Port Fairy. Wedge details his experiences and visually documented his journey with numerous sketches of the landscape.
- The records have been included on the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register.



William Strutt's Black Thursday, February 6th, 1851



Digitised item

Catalogue record

- Depicting a devastating bushfire that struck Victoria in February 1851, Black Thursday is considered to be one of Australia's most important colonial paintings. Strutt's vision continues to resonate with each recurrence of fire in the Victorian landscape.
- Measuring 106.5 x 343cm, this large oil painting was painted by William Strutt (1825-1915), a Royal Academy-trained and widely travelled artist who lived in Victoria from 1850 to 1862, a crucial time in the state's history.
- Strutt painted Black Thursday in England 13 years after the fire from sketches based on observer accounts.
- Strutt had intended the work to end up in a public collection but the painting • failed to sell. In 1954 it was sold at auction to the Library for a modest sum (colonial art was unfashionable at the time). Ironically, it is now one of the Library's most valuable paintings.

Mourning brooch and diaries of Anne Drysdale



Catalogue record

View the diaries online

- This remarkable collection includes a stunning mourning brooch made of finely woven hair and gold.
- The diaries provide a detailed account of domestic and social life as well as contemporary farming practices.
- Anne Drysdale arrived in Port Phillip from Scotland in 1840. She had a property on the banks of the Barwon River in Geelong and, with her partner Miss Caroline Newcomb, became a sheep farmer.
- In the mid-1840s they acquired the freehold of 'Coriyule', a property on the • Bellarine Peninsula, and built a large house to which they moved in 1849. Here



they scaled down their pastoral business, concentrating on farming, growing vegetables and fruit, and raising Clydesdale horses.

- In 1852 Anne suffered a stroke from which she recovered but a second stroke the following year was more severe and she died in May 1853. She was buried at Coriyule.
- After Miss Drysdale's death, Miss Newcomb had the brooch made from strands of their hair woven together.

Antoine Fauchery and Richard Daintree's Sun Pictures of Victoria



- An album of 53 photographs, *Sun Pictures of Victoria* is one of the first photographic series of Australian scenes ever to have been sold to the public.
- The album was produced by the studio of Antoine Fauchery and Richard Daintree in 1858.
- Antoine Fauchery was an artist and writer in Paris who mixed in bohemian circles. He was immortalised in Henry Murger's Scènes de la vie de bohème, on which the opera La bohème was based.
- Richard Daintree became a prominent geologist and a pioneer of the use of photography in geological surveying. He's most often associated with Queensland, where he surveyed goldfields and coal seams, and where a number of natural features are named after him, including a national park.
- While Fauchery and Daintree appear to have produced multiple copies of photographs for sale, only three sets of their joint work are known to exist today: one in State Library Victoria, and two slightly different sets in the John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

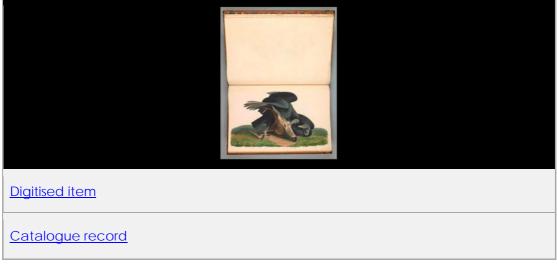
Photographs of Coranderrk by Charles Walter





- Sir Redmond Barry commissioned Charles Walter to photograph Aboriginal people living at the government settlement at Coranderrk near Healesville for the 1866 Intercolonial Exhibition.
- The result was a large photographic composite titled Portraits of Aboriginal natives settled at Coranderrk, near Healesville, about 42 miles from Melbourne. Upper Yarra.
- This extraordinary artefact of the 19th century measures almost one metre by one and a half metres. Inside the frame, 104 oval portraits of the men, women and children resident at Coranderrk mission are arranged in a grid with the names of the sitters inscribed below each portrait.
- The collection constitutes both a valuable photographic record of the residents of Coranderrk in the 1860s, and a document of how their lives were interpreted by white colonisers.

Audubon Birds of America



- Birds of America has been described as the most beautiful book ever published.
- It consists of 435 hand-coloured engravings that are bound in four volumes. It towers over most other books, standing more than 1m in height.
- John James Audubon (1785–1851) was born in Haiti, the illegitimate son of a French plantation owner. After dabbling in business, he eventually devoted himself almost entirely to zoological illustration, travelling the length and breadth of North America to do so.
- Using freshly killed specimens that were wired into lifelike positions, Audubon created the first illustrations of birds that looked as if they were alive.
- Sir Redmond Barry acquired the Library's copy from a Geelong schoolteacher in 1871 for £100.
- Today, only 120 copies remain intact. Such is its rarity and fame that one copy sold at a Sotheby's auction in London in 2010 for \$US11.5m, a record for a printed book sold at auction.



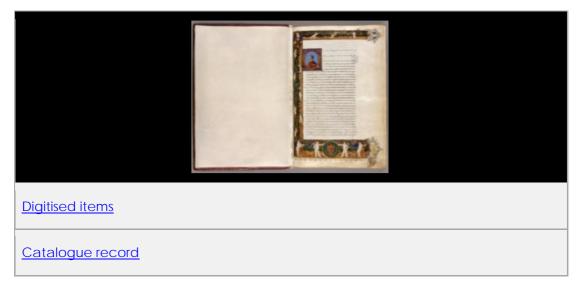
William Caxton's Myrrour of the Worlde



- Myrrour of the Worlde is one of the first illustrated books printed in England.
- Produced by William Caxton in 1490, this second-edition copy is one of only 19 remaining in the world and is the only complete book printed by William Caxton held in Australia.
- Myrrour of the World is sometimes described as an early form of an encyclopaedia, although it has elements of a cosmology or an epistemological essay. It is a document that reveals much about how the medieval thinkers conceived the relationship between God, the world and human knowledge.
- William Caxton worked as a cloth merchant in Bruges before learning the art of printing and returning to England to become the first English printer.
- Other notable books from Caxton's press include The Canterbury tales, Troilus and Criseyde by Geoffrey Chaucer and Confessio Amantis by the poet John Gower.
- Caxton printed nearly 100 other works before his death in 1491, but fewer than 40 of his publications still exist.



Scriptores Historiae Augustae



- This manuscript was produced in Florence in 1479.
- It is considered the most important Renaissance manuscript held in Australia.
- The work comprises a series of biographies of Roman emperors from Hadrian to Numerian (AD 117–284).
- The Library's manuscript was originally commissioned by the Medici family, the great Florentine dynasty.
- During the 19th century the manuscript belonged to Thomas Philipps, who owned the largest collection of medieval manuscripts in England at that time.

Leaf from the Gutenberg Bible



• Johann Gutenberg (c. 1400–1486) was the founder of European printing. His invention of mechanical movable type printing started the Printing Revolution and is widely regarded as the most important event of the modern period.



- His great Bible, produced between 1450 and 1455, is the first book printed in Europe by means of movable type.
- Many book lovers have commented on the high standards achieved in the production of the Gutenberg Bible, some describing it as one of the most beautiful books ever printed.
- The price of a complete copy today is estimated at \$25-\$35 million. Individual leaves now sell for \$20,000-\$100,000.
- Gutenberg's invention did not make him rich, but it laid the foundation for the commercial mass production of books. The success of printing meant that books soon became cheaper, and more of the population could afford them.

Victorian Patent Office Copyright Collection of 19th-Century Photographs



- This unique collection, known colloquially as the Copyright Collection, was accumulated by the Victorian Patents Office from 1870 to 1906.
- People applying for copyright protection of visual material were required to submit an original copy of the image.
- The collection of original photographs, designs for trademarks and other commercial designs was given to the Library in 1908 after Federation, when copyright became a Commonwealth responsibility.
- All aspects of public life are covered, from scenic views to examples of public sensibility and topical social issues.
- The collection also contains a number of portraits of public figures, both respected and notorious.



Howard Arkley Archive



- Howard Arkley (1951-99) is acknowledged as one of the most important artists in contemporary Australian art. His work is held by many major art galleries and is widely exhibited.
- The air brush became his signature method of applying paint, and he used vivid colour.
- Arkley achieved fame and acclaim for his fluorescent, large paintings of suburban houses and interiors, done in the late 1980s to mid-1990s.
- An almost exclusively visual archive, what is rare and extraordinary about this collection is its scope and size; it's a studio archive representing almost 30 years of an artist's work from 1968 to 1999.
- The 33 sketchbooks and 48 visual diaries display the development of Arkley's art over this period.
- The Arkley Archive consists of over 1600 individual works on paper (drawings, doodles, sketches, watercolours and working drawings for large painting). Many of the pieces are signed and dated by Arkley, so can be thought of as artworks in their own right.

Rennie Ellis Collection



• The Rennie Ellis Collection is a major document of Australian social history covering the last decades of the 20th century.



- Comprising over half a million original negatives and transparencies, it is unique in providing a view of the post-war generation from a photographer immersed in the culture he was recording.
- It also includes an archive which is rich in biographical content, presenting a varied and fascinating picture of Ellis – his travels, socialising, relationships and professional life as both a photographer and journalist.
- The development of Melbourne as a fashion capital is documented with images of both mainstream and alternative fashion, the catwalk and behind the scenes.
- In the 1980s Ellis' spirited work as a social photographer for high-profile magazines such as *Vogue* and *Mode* introduced the candid shot, as opposed to the posed or set-up photo, and changed the course of social photography in Australia.
- Ellis was a prolific contributor to many Australian and overseas magazines with his telling portrait work and photojournalism. His photographs have appeared in Australian, American and European magazines such as Vogue, Mode, Tatler and Vanity Fair.
- His photographs have been widely exhibited and are included in the collections of major cultural institutions such as the National Gallery of Australia, many State Collections and private collections in Australia, UK and USA.



Scholastic Dromkeen Children's Literature Collection

- In 2012 the Dromkeen Board of Governors, Scholastic Australia presented the Library with the entire collection of the Scholastic Dromkeen Children's Literature Collection.
- The internationally significant Scholastic Dromkeen Children's Literature Collection consists of approximately 7500 original artworks and illustrations from prepublication material of many of Australia's best-loved children's books.
- The collection also includes a historical book collection, six bronze sculptures of picture book characters and the Dromkeen archive.
- Courtney and Joyce Oldmeadow at the historic 'Dromkeen' homestead in Riddell's Creek founded the Dromkeen National Centre for Picture Book Art in 1973.
- Dromkeen quickly became a haven for illustrators and authors and attracted many thousands of school students and teachers.



Ken Pound Collection



- The Ken Pound collection was acquired by the Library in 1994.
- Comprising over 25,000 children's books, it was the largest private collection of Australian children's books in the country.
- The collection includes numerous scarce and ephemeral books not held in other Australian libraries.
- The collection holds 95 different editions and printings of Ethel Turner's classic book Seven Little Australians; and 69 editions of Mary Grant Bruce's A Little Bush Maid.

Paul Burke Collection of Australian Recordings

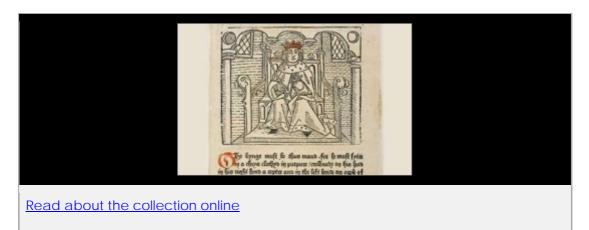
- For over 50 years, local sound enthusiast Paul Burke collected recordings produced in Australia or with an Australian performer or connection.
- His collection contains over 7000 cylinders, 78RPM records, vinyl albums, cassettes and reel-to-reel tapes, many of which are considered unique.
- Of national importance, the collection is possibly one of the most important Australian sound collections in the country, covering the earliest days of sound recording in Australia through to the advent of the compact disc.

WG Alma Conjuring Collection





- William George Alma (1904–93) was an Australian magician as well as a fine craftsperson and manufacturer of conjuring apparatus and props.
- His passionate interest in every aspect of magic and his lifelong dedication to the art of conjuring combined to create a research collection of great range and depth.
- The WG Alma Conjuring Collection contains around 2000 books on magic, 60 magazine titles, 1500 photographs, 300 posters, over 400 detailed research files on individual magician, and other magic memorabilia, including small tricks and models.
- The collection continues to grow and is highly regarded by magicians and magic researchers from around the world.



MV Anderson Chess Collection

- With over 13,000 volumes of books, magazines and tournament reports, the MV Anderson Chess Collection is one of the largest chess collections in the world.
- A key feature is the many older books on chess; the earliest is a leaf from *The game and playe of chesse* published by William Caxton in 1483.
- The collection owes its origins to the generosity of MV Anderson, who donated his collection of 6700 volumes between 1959 and 1966.

Peter Carey - Drafts and proofs of True history of the Kelly Gang



• True history of the Kelly Gang is a Booker Prize-winning novel written by a Victorian and set entirely in Victoria.



- One of Carey's most notable works, it draws extensively from the State Library's Jerilderie Letter and the mythology surrounding the lives and exploits of the Kelly family and the Kelly Gang Steve Hart, Joe Byrne and, of course, Edward Kelly.
- The book was written entirely on Peter Carey's laptop, which is part of the collection, and in true Carey fashion documents multiple chapter drafts and sections of the work as it progressed.
- In purchasing Carey's 'True history' laptop in 2001, and the material it holds, the Library acquired its first major born-digital manuscript, the acquisition of the laptop and hard drive, plus extant paper material, ensuring the integrity and uniqueness of the record.
- This varied collection reflects Peter Carey's writing processes, the development of *True history of the Kelly Gang*, his professional activities other than writing, and life in New York's literary community.

George Auchterlonie Collection - World War I



Watch a short film about George Auchterlonie

- George Auchterlonie, from Gippsland, was a member of the 8th Australian Light Horse Regiment and was involved in many of the remarkable events in a region where the Ottoman Empire was on the brink of collapse.
- Auchterlonie kept detailed diaries from 1916 until within sight of the coast of Victoria in 1920. The diaries number nearly one thousand pages.
- Auchterlonie recorded such events as the aftermath of the battle of Beersheba, the last engagement of the Australian Light Horse; patrols through Tripoli, Damascus, Gaza and Jerusalem; and the lives and deaths of comrades and friends.
- Objects in the collection include Turkish shells, military insignia, badges and tourist ephemera.



John Emmerson Collection



- The Emmerson collection of rare books includes more than 5000 items bound in 3500 volumes.
- It is one of the world's largest collections of rare English printed works, with a particular emphasis on the reign of King Charles I and the English Civil War fought during the 1640s.
- The Emmerson collection was amassed over 40 years by the late John McLaren Emmerson QC (1938–2014), a bibliophile and brilliant scholar who had careers as both an Oxford physicist and a Melbourne barrister.

Geoffrey Cains Collections

- An outstanding collection of literary and related manuscripts consisting of the papers and letters of 238 authors/artists and of 12 organisations/subjects.
- The collection is one of the last, if not the last, large representative collection of paper-based literary manuscripts and correspondence of Australian writers that could be collected by either an individual or an institution.
- It was developed and added to assiduously by Dr Cains over a 40-year plus period.
- Authors represented in the collection include Patrick White, Brian Castro, Helen Garner (the manuscript of her novel *Monkey grip* which was written in the Dome Reading Room), Thomas Keneally and many others.



Print Council of Australia Print Commission Archive



- The Print Council of Australia was established in 1966 to foster Australian printmakers and printmaking. The Print Commission commenced in 1967 and is still running.
- Each year, a competitively selected group of artists create new works which are then sold to members, collectors and institutions.
- The archive includes all number 1 edition prints from the Print Commission between 1967 and 2013, with over 400 artists represented in the archive, including Fred Williams, John Brack, Noel Counihan, Deborah Klein and Belinda Fox.
- The archive is a qualitative survey of the best of Australian printmaking since 1960.



4. Some intriguing things from our collections

Along with materials of scholarly interest, the State Library's diverse collection includes quirky miscellanea, museum-quality realia and items of rare historic value.

Objects

Robert Hoddle's drawing instruments box

- Digitised item
- <u>Catalogue record</u>

Henry Creswick's leather writing box

- Digitised item
- <u>Catalogue record</u>

Helmet worn by a gunner in the Victorian Volunteer Artillery Corps

- <u>Digitised item</u>
- <u>Catalogue record</u>

Mrs Butters' Press Dress

- Digitised item
- <u>Catalogue record</u>

Manuscripts

Bendigo goldfields petition

- Digitised item
- <u>Catalogue record</u>

Long-format pictures

Cyclorama of early Melbourne

- Digitised item
- <u>Catalogue record</u>

Bird's-eye views of Melbourne, taken from the top of Scots' Church spire, Collins Street

- <u>Digitised item</u>
- <u>Catalogue record</u>

Panorama of Melbourne in 1862 from the roof of the Houses of Parliament

- Digitised item
- <u>Catalogue record</u>

Stereographs

Stereographs were viewed through an instrument to turn the two photographic prints into one 3D view.

Coronation celebrations, Australians in line on the lawn at Buckingham Palace to receive medals from HM the king

Digitised item



• Catalogue record

Snowballing at the hospice, Buffalo Ranges

- Digitised item
- Catalogue record

Lantern slides

The magic lantern was the precursor to the slide projector, and projected the images to accompany storytelling or poetry.

Mallee scrub - a true story of three children who were lost in the Australian bush

<u>Catalogue record</u>

Collection of 39 lantern slides of stories, Star of Bethlehem, The Toilers, Ora Pro Nobis, The Better Land and others, sets incomplete

<u>Catalogue record</u>

Architectural drawings / Maps

The Public Library Museums and National Galleries of Victoria. New Reading Room and Stack Rooms Etc [Section A B of the Domed Reading Room]

- Digitised item
- <u>Catalogue record</u>

Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works detail plan, No 1018, City of Melbourne

- Digitised item
- <u>Catalogue record</u>

Printing plates

Printing block for the front cover of the 9 by 5 Impression Exhibition Catalogue

- <u>Digitised items</u>
- <u>Catalogue record</u>

Three printing plates of unidentified men

<u>Catalogue record</u>

Sketch on Sandridge Pier

<u>Catalogue record</u>