TREASURES GALLERY

NLA–Z

LARGE PRINT LABELS

Please return after use
Cover

MORTIMER MENPES (1855 – 1938)
La Giaconda (detail) between 1900 and 1909

MORTIMER MENPES COLLECTION OF REPRODUCTIONS OF THE GREAT MASTERS (PICTURES)
EDWARD STANFORD LTD, London
Atlas of the British Empire: Reproduced from the Original Made for Her Majesty Queen Mary’s Doll’s House 1925

MAPS COLLECTION

A is for Atlas

This atlas is one of the smallest in the world. The original was created as part of the doll’s house given to Queen Mary in 1924. At a scale of 1 inch to 1 foot, the house and its contents were produced by leading craftsmen, artists, writers and companies of the time. Made by King George V’s cartographers, the atlas features 12 maps, with the colonies of the British Empire coloured in red.
MILES COVERDALE (1488–1569)
The Whole Byble, that Is the Holy Scripture of the Olde and Newe Testament
Zurich: Christopher Froschover for Andrewe Hester, 1550 (2nd edition)

OVERSEAS RARE BOOKS COLLECTION

B is for Bible
This is a rare second edition of the Coverdale Bible, the first full English translation. Prior to the first edition of 1535, only parts of the Bible had appeared in English. Coverdale’s version is known for the psalms and for including the Apocrypha, a collection of controversial texts widely known in early modern Europe, as an appendix to the Old Testament. The stories of Susanna and the Elders and of Judith and Holofernes, for example, inspired countless artists.
GEOFF PRYOR (b. 1944)
Let’s Hear it for Librarians! 2002

PRYOR COLLECTION OF CARTOONS AND DRAWINGS (PICTURES)

C is for Cartoon
Geoff Pryor is an award-winning Australian political cartoonist who has worked for *The Canberra Times* since 1977. His cartoons were first published in the Australian National University’s student magazine, *Woroni*. This cartoon was featured in *The Canberra Times* on 1 April 2002. In 2003, Pryor began donating many of his original works to the Library, a collection which today numbers over 7,000 cartoons.
D is for Dorking Chicken

The Dorking chicken was introduced into Britain by the Romans in AD 30, making it one of the oldest breeds of poultry domesticated for human use. Wilson was an influential Australian architect and artist, best known for his drawings of Australian colonial architecture. This work is part of the series, *Fowls of the World*, created for the 12 interior pilaster capitals of Wilson’s radical design for the ideal city of Kurrajong.
**Ethiopian Healing Scroll**  late 1800s

**MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTION**

**E is for Ethiopian Healing Scroll**

Ethiopian healing scrolls contain prayers and images for protection, healing or blessing. Prepared by Coptic Christian clerics, each scroll is measured to the height of its owner, thereby protecting that person from head to toe. Made from goat or calf skin worked into vellum, the scrolls are written using natural vegetable dye. The language is Ge’ez, which is no longer spoken and appears only in religious texts.
IDA RENTOUL OUTHWAITE (1888–1960)
Cocktails in the Bush  c. 1927
PICTURES COLLECTION

F is for Fairy

Best known for the ethereal beauty of her elves and fairies, Rentoul Outhwaite was among the most successful early 20th-century Australian children’s book illustrators. In many works, she blends European and Australian motifs. This watercolour is a wry commentary on the contentious 6 pm closing time of pubs. To the right, beneath a kookaburra, the clock reads 6.05 pm. The koalas are still drinking, however, and the fairy is still serving cocktails. An elvish policeman lurks among the toadstools, ready to enforce the law.
Shoka han’ei sugoroku  between 1869 and 1900

ASIAN COLLECTION

G is for Game

Sugoroku (‘double sixes’) is a Japanese board game similar to snakes and ladders. Its popularity peaked in the 19th century, when the woodblock print industry was flourishing. Although it was produced for recreation, the sugoroku board was also an efficient tool for conveying information and was used in education, advertising or to promote nationalist sentiment. This sugoroku contains advertisements for various shops in the centre of Tokyo during the early Meiji period.
**H is for Herbarium**

Anglo-Dutch merchant George Clifford (1685–1760) cultivated a magnificent garden and herbarium—a systematic collection of dried plants—at his estate in the Netherlands, the Hartekamp. In 1735, he employed young Swedish doctor and botanist Carl Linnaeus to organise his collections and write this catalogue. It proved a fruitful relationship. Linnaeus was ‘bewitched’ by Clifford’s hothouses and his work at the Hartekamp became the foundation for his renowned work of classification, *Species Plantarum* (1753). This plate depicts ‘simple leaves’.
Invitation to a Banquet Given by the Government of Queensland for His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on 28 July 1920

I is for Invitation

The Library’s Ephemera Collection includes invitations of all shapes and sizes for a wide variety of occasions. This example is for a banquet honouring the popular Prince of Wales, who later married Wallis Simpson, during a tour of Australia to thank the nation for its contribution to the First World War. The Prince spent about four days in Brisbane, where he opened the Exhibition, or Ekka. The banquet was catered by Finney’s Cafe, the restaurant of a Brisbane department store.
J is for Juvenilia

Juvenilia is defined as literary, musical or artistic works produced by authors, artists or composers in their youth. This manuscript of a song by renowned Australian composer Peter Sculthorpe was written when he was about 14 years old. He began composing from the age of seven, much to the dismay of his piano teacher, who preferred him to practice other people’s works rather than compose his own. Today, Sculthorpe has composed over 380 works, including orchestral and chamber music.
K is for King of Kangaroos

Kangaroo the first, king of Kangaroos
Having hung up his big sword on the nail
Sits on a throne of cabbage leaves

This book of animal nonsense rhymes is one of the lightest works by French surrealist poet Robert Desnos, a member of the French Resistance during the Second World War. It was published just weeks before he was deported to the first in a series of Nazi concentration camps, including Auschwitz.
LIONEL LINDSAY (1874–1961)

clockwise, from top left
Bookplates for John Ferguson (1914), Keith Murdoch (1944), Will Ashton (1950) and Robert Menzies (1940)

PICTURES COLLECTION

L is for Lionel Lindsay

Part of the famous Lindsay family, the celebrated and prolific artist Lionel Lindsay worked as a painter, printmaker, cartoonist, illustrator and writer. Between 1911 and 1958, he produced at least 60 bookplates, giving the majority as gifts rather than accepting commissions. Pasted inside the cover of a book to indicate ownership, a bookplate is usually visually symbolic of the owner. The Latin phrase *ex libris* means ‘from the books’, indicating the publication is ‘from the library’, of the owner.
M is for Mortimer Menpes’ Mona Lisa

This copy of Leonardo da Vinci’s *Mona Lisa* is one of 38 copies of great masterpieces painted by Adelaide-born artist Mortimer Menpes in the Library’s collection. The works were donated to the Australian Government in 1911, in the hope they would form the foundation of a national collection. Menpes moved to London at the age of 20 to pursue a career as an artist, studying under the great American painter, James Whistler.
The increase in European settlement of Fiji during the late 19th century led to the establishment of the first English-language newspapers. This rare edition of *The Fiji Observer and West Pacific Advertiser* is printed on tapa, which is made from thin strips of bark. Tapa plays an important ceremonial role in South Pacific cultures and is used to make everyday clothing and decorations.
O is for Ornithology

Englishman John Gould’s name is synonymous with ornithology, or the study of birds. This is his first book. In around 1830, Gould, then a private taxidermist and Curator and Preserver at the Zoological Society of London, had access to a large number of Himalayan bird skins. He writes: ‘India ... presents a field the richness of whose stores at once invites and repays the industry of the naturalist’. Gould’s wife, Elizabeth, produced the exquisite hand-coloured lithographs.
GORDON CLIVE BLEECK (author, 1907–1971)
MAURICE BRAMLEY (artist, 1898–1975)
Cover Proofs for Master-mind Menace
and Depths of Death  c. 1950

G.C. BLEECK COLLECTION (PICTURES)

P is for Pulp Fiction
The Library’s G.C. Bleeck Collection is populated with private dicks, dangerous dames, mind-controlling Martians and brain-eating zombies. Bleeck wrote and collected pulp fiction—mass-produced novels, in which the emphasis is on generic conventions rather than high-brow literary merit. In the 1940s and 1950s, the Australian ban on American paperbacks helped the domestic pulp industry to thrive. Bleeck wrote many of these works under the pseudonym Belli Luigi.
Qur’ān
Persia: between c. 1850 and 1899

MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTION

Q is for Qur’ān
This beautifully illuminated Persian manuscript contains a complete version of the holy book of Islam, the Qur’ān, in Arabic script. On the right-hand page is the opening verse, Al Fatihah, a prayer that Muslims are required to know by heart and recite during daily prayer. On the left-hand page is the beginning of the Al Baqarah, the longest verse in the holy book. This manuscript most likely dates from the mid- to late Qajar dynasty, which ruled Persia from 1794 until 1925.
Between 1803 and 1806, under the patronage of Tsar Alexander I, Krusenstern completed the first Russian circumnavigation of the world. His report of the voyage was illustrated in this volume by Tilesius von Tilenau, who served as ship’s doctor, marine biologist and expedition artist.
WALTER CHARLETON (1619–1707)

*Chorea gigantum (The Giants’ Dance)*
London: Henry Herringman, 1663

DAVID NICHOL SMITH COLLECTION (OVERSEAS RARE BOOKS)

**S is for Stonehenge**

Debate over the meaning and origin of Stonehenge, the circle of ancient megalithic-shaped stones on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire, England, raged even in the 17th century. This is one of the earliest books to discuss its meaning. Charleton was physician-in-ordinary to English King Charles II and a founding fellow of the Royal Society. In what he calls his ‘laborious Enquiry’, Charleton argues that Stonehenge is an ancient Danish Royal Court. He critiques the work of earlier authors Inigo Jones, who had argued it was a Roman temple, and William Camden.
LOUDON SAINTHILL (1919–1969)
A Tree Creature, *The Tempest* 1951

PICTURES COLLECTION
RECENT ACQUISITION

T is for Tree Creature

This costume design by Australian artist and designer Loudon Sainthill was for a production of Shakespeare’s *The Tempest* at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, Stratford-on-Avon, England, in May 1951. In the play, the Tree Creature is imprisoned inside a tree and left to die by the sorceress, Sycorax. Freed by Prospero, the exiled Duke of Milan, the Tree Creature appears torn from nature, sprouting roots and galls on his skin, his hair horned and curled into a gnarled crown.
GOODIE REEVE (music and lyrics, 1898–1978) for CLIFFORD, LOVE AND CO., Sydney
Eat Your Uncle Toby’s Every Day
Sydney: Printed by Clifford Love and Co., c. 1935

MUSIC COLLECTION

U is for Uncle Toby’s

Uncle Toby’s, an Australian brand of breakfast cereals, was named in 1893 after a character in Laurence Sterne’s classic English novel *The Life and Times of Tristram Shandy* (1759). This sheet music is for an Uncle Toby’s jingle in the 1930s, when singing commercials were very much a part of the new live radio experience. The lyrics promise that if you eat the company’s oats you’ll ‘grow up big and strong’.
V is for Vaccination

Regarded as the father of modern microbiology, French scientist Louis Pasteur discovered vaccines for rabies and anthrax. In this letter addressed to Lady Eliza Priestley, an English campaigner for preventative medicine, he discusses his successful field experiments in eradicating rabbits using the micro-organisms responsible for chicken cholera. Pasteur hoped to win a New South Wales government contest to eliminate the rabbit plague in Australia and New Zealand. The prize was worth £25,000—around $10 million today.
THE WIGGLES (music and lyrics)
GRAHAM JESSE (arrangement)
Shake Your Sillies out 1994

GEOFF HARVEY COLLECTION OF MUSIC ARRANGED FOR AUSTRALIAN TELEVISION 1960–1998 (MUSIC)
RECENT ACQUISITION

W is for the Wiggles

Famous for their trademark coloured skivvies, catchy tunes and energetic stage shows, Australian children’s entertainers the Wiggles are one of the world’s most successful musical acts. They have sold more than 23 million DVDs and seven million CDs and their television program is broadcast in over 100 countries. This handwritten score is from a live performance by the Wiggles on Channel Nine’s Midday Show on 27 June 1994.
X is for Xiphias gladius, the Swordfish

The swordfish’s taxonomic name is derived from the Greek xiphias and the Latin gladius, both of which mean ‘sword’. This plate is from a book regarded as the greatest work on fish published in the 18th century.
Y is for Yacht Race

An annual Australian event, the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race commences on Boxing Day, 26 December. This rare board game is a simple roll and move game for two to four players, set on a grid of squares representing the geographic path of the race. The word ‘yacht’ originated in the 17th century from the Dutch Jacht, meaning ‘hunt’.
Drop Mail Pouch and Tail from
LZ 127 Graf Zeppelin 1934

Photograph of Mail Parachute being Dropped by
LZ 129 Hindenburg 1937

CROME COLLECTION (PICTURES)

Z is for Zeppelin Mail

From 1908 to 1939, zeppelins, or German airships, carried mail across the Atlantic. The postmarks and stamps were highly prized by collectors and revenue from postage financed much of the operating cost. This water-resistant mail pouch from the Graf Zeppelin has instructions in four languages for the finder: ‘Please deliver the contents of this postbag immediately to the next post office’. Attached to the pouch is a long cloth tail to increase its visibility.