

# FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2012

Donald Friend (1915-1989) Shoppers at Night, Bondi Junction Mall From 'Ayam-Ayam Kesayangan' (Donald Friend Diaries: MS 5959) Manuscripts Collection



Friends of the  
NATIONAL  
LIBRARY  
OF AUSTRALIA INC.

Friends of the National Library of Australia Inc. Canberra ACT 2600  
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Gary Kent

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends

Welcome to the first edition of the Friends Newsletter for 2012. This promises to be another exciting year for the Friends with a marvellous program of events and activities in store. These include our Spring Tour to the Blue Mountains, the annual Friends Celebration, a range of interesting lectures and exhibitions and the regular Friends Book Club and Reel McCoy film screenings.

We are delighted that prominent journalist and media presenter Kerrie O'Brien has agreed to deliver our 2012 Kenneth Myer Lecture. We will provide further information about this and other Friends events as details are finalised.

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at our Christmas Party on 2 December 2011. Following the festivities, Friends were treated to a special viewing of the enormously successful *Handwritten* exhibition, which has so captured the public's imagination.

May I take this opportunity to record our thanks to those members of the Committee who completed their terms at the end of last year. To Joan Kennedy (our retiring Chair), Margaret Pender and Tim Walshaw I express our collective appreciation for your commitment to the Friends and your hard work on its behalf.

The first meeting of the new Committee was held on 13 December 2011, at which it elected the following office-bearers.

Chair – Gary Kent  
Deputy Chair – Elizabeth Kennedy  
Treasurer – Lynnette Adams  
Assistant Treasurer – Anne Davis  
Newsletter Editor – Robyn Oates

The first meeting of the Events Sub-Committee on 31 January 2012 elected Margo Geering as its chair. The Friends has also established a Membership Committee to explore ways to ensure we remain relevant to our existing members, while also attracting new ones to maintain our continued growth.

The Director-General of the Library, Anne-Marie Schwirtlich and several of her senior staff are also members of the Friends Committee. We appreciate their wise counsel and encouragement and look forward to their continuing support in the year ahead.

Best wishes  
Gary Kent



Anne-Marie Schwirtlich proposes a toast at the Friends 21st Birthday Celebration, 11 April 2011



Anne-Marie when CEO of the State Library of Victoria, with a visitor from the National Library of Vietnam



Anne-Marie as a four year old with her mother and newly-arrived baby sister



Anne-Marie at her desk at the National Archives of Australia in 1993

## PEOPLE TREASURES AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY: ANNE-MARIE SCHWIRTLICH, DIRECTOR-GENERAL

*(This is the eighth of our series of pen portraits of some of the highly talented and professional staff of the National Library).*

The Friends of the National Library celebrated their 21st anniversary at a morning tea held in April 2011. We were very proud that our new Director-General, Anne Marie-Schwirtlich, spoke warmly to those gathered about the contribution of the Friends to the life of the Library and proposed the toast. She has made it clear then and since that she appreciates the Friends' ongoing work on behalf of and support for the Library.

Although taking up her position as Director-General only a few weeks earlier, Anne-Marie has had a long connection with the Friends. Indeed, she retains fond memories of attending the official launch of the Friends all those years ago and has been a member since its the foundation.

Anne-Marie came to the Library following an outstandingly successful eight years at the helm of the State Library of Victoria (SLV). As Chief Executive Officer of the Library and State Librarian, Annie-Marie oversaw a crucial phase of the renaissance of an institution which has played a key role in the intellectual life of Victoria for nearly 150 years but which, it is fair to say, suffered from a degree of benign neglect for several decades until the 1990s.

Anne-Marie Schwirtlich was born in Bombay, India. For the statistically minded, only she and one of her predecessors (Kenneth Binns, Commonwealth Parliamentary Librarian from 1927-1947) were born overseas.

She is the daughter of a German-speaking Czech father and a French speaking Mauritian mother, who was the daughter of a sea captain. Her father, who was born in the Sudetenland, was sent to India by his employer, Bata Shoes, in the mid-1930s to assist in the establishment of the firm's local operations at Batanagar, near Calcutta. At one time, while representing the company in Hyderabad, his role involved the exotic duties of chiropodist to the Nizam of Hyderabad.

Following her father's retirement in 1971 Anne-Marie emigrated to Australia with her family, where her mother had two sisters. But she never forgot her formative years in India, which had made an indelible impression on her. She never tires of going back to India, and speaks animatedly of its extraordinary history, vibrant culture, linguistic complexity, and the sheer crush of humanity with its enormous lust for life which can teach us so much.

Annie-Marie completed her last two years of secondary schooling in Sydney and then took a four-year honours degree in Ancient History at Macquarie University. In 1978 she obtained a graduate position with the National Archives in Sydney. There over the next few years her duties included reference work, assessing the enduring significance of, and arranging and describing Commonwealth records, as well as arranging and providing records management advice.

Annie-Marie loved her work. Speaking to Alex Sloan on ABC radio shortly after her appointment, Anne-Marie said that 'In some ways I think that it was incongruous that I, an immigrant who had never studied Australian history, was working in the archives, but I was intrigued and beguiled and loved working with the historical material.'

While at the Archives in Sydney, Anne-Marie obtained a Post Graduate Diploma in Archives Administration at the University of New South Wales. She was transferred to the Archives' Mitchell office in Canberra following her marriage in 1985.



Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, as CEO of the State Library of Victoria, at the Archiving Web Resources conference, 9-11 November 2004, at the National Library of Australia



Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Anne-Marie Schwirtlich at the Prime Minister's Literary Awards held at the National Library of Australia, 8 July 2011



Minister for the Arts Simon Crean, Anne-Marie Schwirtlich and Dr Barry Jones at the Prime Minister's Literary Awards held at the National Library of Australia, Canberra, 8 July 2011



Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, Adrian Caesar, Genevieve Jacobs, Joan Kennedy (Friends Chair) and Alex Miller at the 2011 Friends Celebration event

Between 1988 and 1993 Anne-Marie worked at the Australian War Memorial as curator of printed and written material, and spent twelve months as curator of art. In 1993 she returned to the Archives as head of reference and access, which included responsibility for the Archives' reading rooms around Australia.

In 1998 Anne-Marie spent six months at the National Library, where she was involved with the establishment of the Bringing Them Home project and responsible for reader services and the manuscripts and special collections. She returned to the Archives as Assistant Director-General Public and Reader Services and, from late 2000, served as Acting Director-General.

In 2003 Anne-Marie was appointed CEO of the State Library of Victoria, where her main immediate priority was overseeing the completion of the long-awaited library building program. A key challenge was allocating scarce funds between a range of important projects, including finding an appropriate balance, for example, between refurbishing Queen's Hall and collection conservation.

In this role, Anne-Marie's driving imperative was ensuring the Library served Victorians in the best possible way. She credits the Library's 'ingenious and creative staff;' with tripling public floor space without a corresponding increase in the operating budget. Building of another, but equally vital, sort happened in Ballarat with the construction of a purpose-built repository which replaced a number of different storage facilities in parts of inner Melbourne and ensured better management and coordination of the Library's collection.

Anne-Marie is proud of the State Library's online services and the large scale digitising of its collections. By the time of her departure more than 50 per cent of the Library's unique Victorian collections were available on the Internet, an astonishing achievement. Another important initiative was the Library's involvement in the bidding consortia which successfully sought designation as a UNESCO City of Literature.

[Insert image 'Crean, AMS & Jones', with caption 'Minister for the Arts Simon Crean, Anne-Marie Schwirtlich and Dr Barry Jones at the Prime Minister's Literary Awards held at the National Library of Australia, Canberra, 8 July 2011']

The achievements of the State Library were no doubt pivotal to her appointment to her current position at the National Library, announced in February 2011. She replaced Jan Fullerton, whom Anne-Marie considers left a marvellous, wonderful legacy and deserves every tribute and accolade that has come her way.

While Anne-Marie has inherited an institution in tip-top shape, the work of the national library is never done, and she identifies a number of future challenges. Key amongst these is the need to acquire, to manage and preserve and to make accessible our digital heritage and to pursue an industrial scale collection digitisation program to make available the Library's vast collections. According to Anne-Marie, existing and well regarded systems such as Prometheus and Pandora simply cannot cope and new approaches must be found. The Library is tackling these issues through its Digital Library Infrastructure Replacement project.

The Director-General is passionate about Trove, the National Library's free internet search service focussing on providing easy access to material in Australian repositories, and which has gone from strength to strength in its relatively short life. She notes the overwhelmingly positive reaction from researchers, who appreciate Trove for helping to make their work more authoritative and providing new lines of inquiry. The newspapers digitisation project in particular has opened up a whole new world of opportunities for researchers from a whole range of disciplines and is used regularly by readers across the world.



Antonia Syme, Director of the Australian Tapestry Workshop, and Anne-Marie Schwirtlich at the Kenneth Myer Tapestry unveiling, 2 December 2011

Trove is just one way that Anne-Marie sees the Library making its collections more accessible, along with reading rooms and reader services, exhibitions, events, copying services, publishing and, of course, digitisation.

An important contribution in this regard is the recently-opened National Library Treasures Gallery, enabling seven day a week public access to iconic items from the Library's collection which until now have been rarely if ever offered for public view. She believes that the National Cultural Policy, now being finalised by the Federal Government, will present significant opportunities to the Library by recognising the importance of Australia's collections. She also thinks that improvements in broadband will allow libraries to rethink some of their services and improve accessibility.

In taking up her appointment, Anne-Marie said she 'looked forward to the work of positioning the Library to serve Australians now and in the long term' and it certainly seems she has made an impressive start.

## RECENT EVENTS

### ***A hidden treasure trove of classical antiquities - tour of the ANU Classics Museum***

A group of 17 lucky Friends of NLA took a specially arranged tour of the ANU's Classics Museum on Tuesday 24 January. The Museum, housed in the A D Hope Building on the ANU Campus, is truly a hidden treasure trove of classical antiquities, all be it 'right under our noses'.

Professor Richard St Clair Johnson began the collection in 1962 for teaching purposes in Classics and Classics-related courses. Foundation acquisitions included a fifth century Attic wine crater, a gold lion's head earring and some early coins.

Today, the considerably expanded collection spans the Mediterranean and beyond and features examples of ancient art and objects of daily life from Greece, Rome, Egypt, the Near East, Cyprus and Europe dating from pre-2000 BC to late antiquity about 500AD.

The objects are beautifully displayed and range from fine Roman glass tableware and jewellery, ancient pots dating back 5,000 years, beautiful Greek vases, Greek coins from the time of Cleopatra and Roman coins depicting Julius Caesar, to domestic ware and interior decor from Pompeiian villas destroyed by the eruption of Vesuvius.

Our very knowledgeable guides Jill Greenwell and Susan Ford made the collection come alive with anecdotes about the items on display, including the funeral ewer that has a false bottom, (presumably so the giver seemed more generous than actually he was), and stories of the provenance of several pieces.

Jill explained how students learn to identify the stories told in the decorations on the pottery vessels. For example, she explained the significance of the decorative owl and olive branch on a drinking vessel. And Susan told us about the different techniques used in making some of the ancient glass objects on display, including how these developments in technique helped to date the items.

Also of particular interest were the items related to 'writing and commemoration' such as the wooden bi-folio Egyptian wax writing tablet and stylus and part of a piece of papyrus documenting a contract for future supplies of grain. These created a link to the NLA exhibition *Handwritten*.

We thoroughly enjoyed the tour and felt privileged to have the opportunity to learn about these incredible ancient artefacts.



Friends Members at the ANU Classics Museum

The Classics Museum offers regular guided tours of the collection for individuals and groups. Public tours for autumn 2012 will be held on Monday 19 March, Monday 16 April and Monday 14 May 2012, from 12:30 to 1.30pm. All are welcome but bookings are essential. For bookings please email Susan Chessell (Susan.Chessell@gmail.com) or Jill Greenwell (jgreenwell@ozemail.com.au), or call 6273 2153. Further information about the museum is available online at <http://culturalinquiry.anu.edu.au/classics-museum>. A map of the ANU Campus is also available at <http://campusmap.anu.edu.au/largemap.asp> (the AD Hope Building is Building 14).

Jenny Oates

### ***The Other Dickens***



Professor Lillian Nayder

On the eve of Charles Dickens' 200th birthday, Professor Lillian Nayder spoke to the Friends about Catherine Dickens, the oft maligned wife of Charles. Nayder moved beyond the much rehearsed stories of the blacking factory and debtors' prison. In her book *The Other Dickens a Life of Catherine Hogarth* Nayder claims that Dickens misrepresented his wife. Her thesis is quietly provocative and substantially researched.

It is well known that the marriage of Catherine and Charles Dickens was unhappy. Dickens ensured that his perspective was the official story, but Nayder argues that Catherine, the so-called "Other Dickens", was not a merely functional, two dimensional character.

In 1858, after 22 years of marriage, Dickens ousted Catherine from their home, alleging that she was mentally ill. Although he provided her with a dwelling and an allowance he also presented to the world a narrative where he was the victim of a cold, disordered and depressed wife. Nayder spoke of the so-called "Violated Letter" in which Dickens attempted to justify his actions. He portrayed her as an incompetent mother and housekeeper and questioned her mental stability and the "peculiarity of her character".

Professor Nayder disputes this. She spoke of a husband who practised a form of mesmerism on his wife, enlisting her as an object under his power, for the entertainment of his friends. "He was an amazing writer, but the Victorian author also used people to his own advantage." she said.

Dickens claimed that his wife was unable to manage the domestic finances, forcing him to rely on her sensible sister, Georgina, for household management. Nayder examined records of the Dickens family financial transactions, still kept at Coutts, London, and found that Catherine was clearly able to manage her accounts.

At the time of their marriage Catherine's father was in the position to further Dickens' writing career. That influence waned and so did Dickens' desire for his wife's care and attention.

Nayder is sympathetic to the Victorian female condition. She points out that, with the exception of 1842, Catherine was pregnant for at least part of every year of her marriage to Dickens.

Catherine gave him ten children. Based on clinical studies and mathematical models, Nayder indicates that the physical side of the Dickens marriage was still quite active, despite Dickens' protestations to the contrary.

Nayder was unable to use correspondence from Catherine to Charles because he had burnt all of that. However the content, tone and attitude of his letters to Catherine provide valuable insights. Manuscript material from the NLA was also part of her research. By quoting these archival sources, Nayder shows Catherine Dickens as an articulate, compassionate, well read woman.

For 42 of her 64 years Catherine lived apart from the man who has come to define her, so is it right to consider her only through her husband's stories?

Robyn Oates

Lillian Nayder is Professor and Chair of English at Bates College, Lewiston Maine, USA where she teaches 19th century British fiction. She is the author of *Unequal Partners: Charles Dickens, Willkie Collins, and Victorian Authorship*, also from Cornell. Currently Lillian is working on a novel about Dickens' sisters, called *Harriet and Letitia. The Other Dickens A Life of Catherine Hogarth* Cornell University Press 2011 is for sale in the NLA bookshop.

*The Dickens Reading Group meets in the Friends Room on the first Wednesday of the month from 7.00 p.m.-8.30 p.m. New members are welcome.*

## NEW NATIONAL LIBRARY EXHIBITION

### ***The Life of Patrick White* - 13 April – 8 July 2012**

In 2012 it will be 100 years since the birth of this complex and fascinating figure, Australia's only Nobel Laureate in Literature. The National Library of Australia is marking the occasion with *The Life of Patrick White*, a retrospective exhibition of his achievements as a writer and of his forceful presence in Australian culture. The exhibition will examine White's life through the places he lived, drawing mostly from the papers of Patrick White, which were acquired by the Library in surprising circumstances.

*This exhibition is supported by the National Collecting Institutions Touring and Outreach Program, an Australian Government program aiming to improve access to the national collections for all Australians.*

*This exhibition will also be shown at the State Library of New South Wales from 20 August – 28 October 2012*



Paddy at 'Lulworth', Rushcutters Bay (detail) c. 1918  
gelatin silver print; 13 x 8.3 cm  
MS 9982, Series 19

## STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA EXHIBITION VISITS CANBERRA

### ***Look! The Art of Australian Picture Books Today***

*A State Library of Victoria touring exhibition*

Explore the diversity of picture books being created by Australian illustrators over the past decade. Celebrating the National Year of Reading, 2012, this exhibition encourages and promotes visual literacy amongst young children through engagement and participation.

24 March – 10 June Gallery 2,  
Canberra Museum and Gallery  
cnr London Circuit & Civic Square, Canberra City

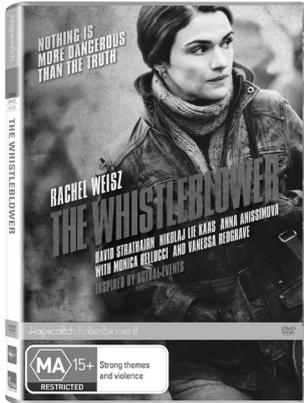
Free admission

Gallery open Mon to Fri, 10.00am-5.00pm; Sat to Sun, 12.00-5.00pm

Information & bookings: (02) 6207 3968 or [cmagbookings@act.gov.au](mailto:cmagbookings@act.gov.au)

## BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS

The Friends of the National Library of Australia and the State Library of Victoria Foundation have recently agreed to reciprocal arrangements for members. Friends of the National Library may now use the Foundation's lounge and associated facilities when visiting the State Library of Victoria. Presentation of your membership card is required to access the lounge.



## DVD GIVEAWAY

To mark the release of two new DVDs from Hopscotch Films, we are pleased to be able to offer four DVD gift packs as a giveaway to members. Each lucky winner will receive a copy of the following two DVDs:

*The Whistleblower* – starring Academy Award winner Rachel Weisz in a remarkable lead performance, *The Whistleblower* is a ripped-from-the-headlines thriller inspired by shocking actual events that took place during the UN peacekeeping mission in post-war Bosnia.

*Hustle* – the seventh series of the light-hearted and humorous BBC television series about a group of con-artists stealing from the rich to give to the poor.

To enter the draw for one of these gift packs, email [friends@nla.gov.au](mailto:friends@nla.gov.au) with the name of two other movies that Rachel Weisz has appeared in. Entries close 12 noon, Friday 30 March.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Bookings for all Friends events must be made through the Friends Office on 02 6262 1698 or by emailing [friends@nla.gov.au](mailto:friends@nla.gov.au). Ticket payments by visa or mastercard may be made over the phone at the same number. Cheque payments, made payable to 'The Friends of the National Library of Australia', should be posted to Friends of the National Library, National Library of Australia, Canberra ACT 2600. Cash payments may be dropped off at the National Library bookshop during opening hours, and must be delivered in an unsealed envelope, with details of your name, the event and the dollar amount written on the envelope. These will then be passed on to the Friends Office.

### Exhibition Lecture

#### Patrick White: an overview

Exhibitions curator Matthew Jones discusses the life and work of Patrick White, subject of the Library's new exhibition.

Friday 13 April 12.30pm

Conference room

\$5 Friends and non-members

### Book Club Lecture

#### Catch-22 Déjà Vu: Joseph Heller's Masterpiece Turns 50

In the decades since Joseph Heller's famous book first appeared there has been no other novel quite like it. It isn't simply that *Catch-22*, initially largely ignored, has sold 10 million copies; nor that it was famously filmed in a 1970 production by Mike Nichols, and was clearly the inspiration for the long running television show *M.A.S.H.*; nor that it is frequently studied in university literature courses. (It isn't even that there is a well known rock group named after it, as well as a men's clothing store in Melbourne!) Beyond all this, it is that the phrase "catch 22"--and the cynical appraisal of authoritarian rationalisations associated with it--is so widely familiar that it is invoked even by people who may be unaware of the book that put it into circulation. What is it about this particular work of fiction that spoke so deeply to contemporary society that its title and dominant motif have impressed themselves indelibly on our collective memory?

Rich Pascal's talk celebrating the 50th anniversary of *Catch-22* will focus upon the entrancing power and enduring relevance of Heller's brilliantly irreverent literary classic in an attempt to provide answers to that question. Following the lecture participants will break into groups for further discussion over a glass of wine.

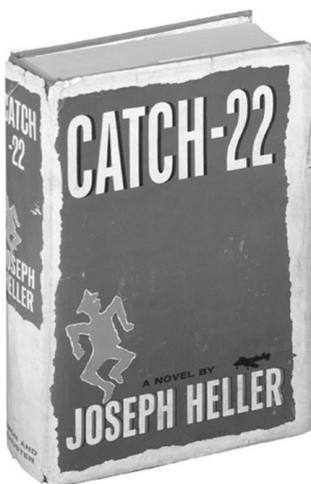
'That's some catch, that *Catch-22*,' Yossarian observed.

'It's the best there is,' Doc Daneeka agreed.

Tuesday 24 April, 6pm

Conference Room & Friends Lounge

\$10 Friends, \$15 non-members





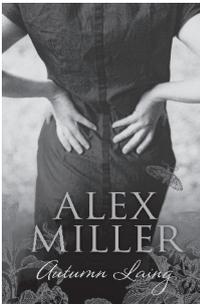
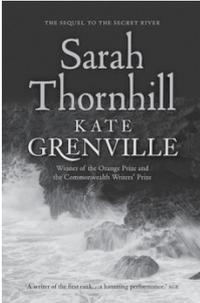
Brisbane War Cemetery, Lutwyche 2011. Image courtesy of the Office of Australian War Graves



Everglades Gardens



The Oil Room at the Norman Lindsay Gallery & Museum



### Special Lecture

Honouring our War Dead:

Horticulture and the Office of Australian War Graves

*Presented in association with the Australian Garden History Society*

Keith Thorogood, Manager of the South Australian Office of Australian War Graves will speak on aspects of horticulture in some of the 75 Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemeteries located in Australia and Papua and New Guinea.

**Thursday 24 May, 6pm**

**Conference Room**

**\$10 Friends & AGHS members, \$15 non-members**

### Spring Tour to the Blue Mountains

The Friends Committee are pleased to offer a weekend tour to the Blue Mountains in September 2012. An itinerary and booking form can be found at the end of this newsletter. There are still a limited numbers of places available on this tour, subject to room availability at the Carrington Hotel. If you would like to join the tour, please contact the Friends Executive Officer, Sharyn O'Brien, in the first instance to determine room availability. Ph 02 6262 1551 or friends@nla.gov.au.

**Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 September**

**\$325 Friends, \$340 non-members (a supplement for single rooms applies)**

### Friends Book Club

All members of the Friends of the National Library are welcome to join this free monthly book club for literary discussion. The meetings are run by participants and each month a group member volunteers to facilitate the monthly literary discussion.

27 March – *Sarah Thornhill* by Kate Grenville

24 April – no meeting this month due to the Autumn Book club lecture (details above, please note entry fee and change of start time)

29 May – *Autumn Laing* by Alex Miller

**7-8.30pm, Friends Lounge**

**Free for members, bookings required.**

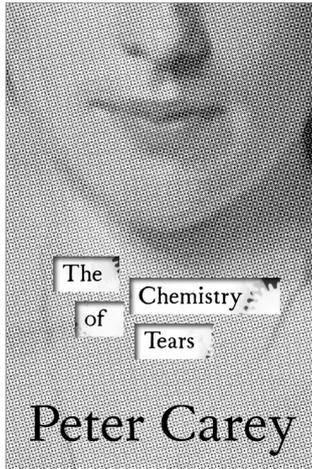
### Free Film Screenings

The Friends of the National Library in association with the Reel McCoy Film Society present fortnightly film screenings on Wednesday nights, exclusively for members of both organisations. Membership cards must be shown at the door and membership to either organisation can be arranged on the night.

A full program for February to June 2012 has been included at the end of this newsletter. Enquiries: 02 6262 1698.

**Theatre, 6pm, free**

**Bookings not required.**



## NATIONAL LIBRARY BOOKSHOP SPECIAL OFFER

### *The Chemistry of Tears* by Peter Carey

Sale Price \$31.96 RRP \$39.95

When Catherine's lover dies suddenly, she has no-one to turn to – their affair had been disguised from their colleagues and his family. To distract her thoughts she turns her focus on her work. As a middle-aged curator in a London museum, Catherine is given a very particular project by the head of her department: a box of intricate clockwork parts that appear to be the remains of a nineteenth century automaton – a beautifully made mechanical bird. When she discovers that the box also contains the diary of the man who commissioned the machine, she is partially rescued from one obsession by another. Who were Henry Brandling and the mysterious, visionary clockmaker he hired to make a gift for his absent son? And what was the end result which now sits in her studio? *The Chemistry of Love* is both wildly entertaining and deeply moving, a portrait of love and loss that is simultaneously delicate and anarchic.

This offer is available only to members of Friends of the National Library of Australia. To order a copy, please phone 1800 800 100 or email [nlshop@nla.gov.au](mailto:nlshop@nla.gov.au), and quote your membership number. Mail orders within Australia incur a \$5 postage and handling fee. Offer ends 31 May 2012. Offer not extended to online orders and no further discounts apply.

## ONLINE BOOKSHOP OFFER

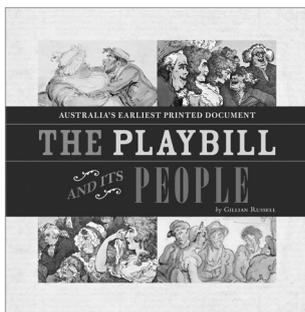


In conjunction with the Library's Sales and Promotion section, the Friends are pleased to announce a special offer for members who make a purchase using the online bookshop. For any purchase made by a Friend during the currency of this newsletter (that is, until the end of May 2012), they will receive the John Hunter Address Book and Perpetual Diary set for free. This is an excellent offer for Friends, as this set usually retails for \$45.00.

This offer is in addition to the usual Friends' discount and any other offers advertised on the Library Shop website.

To receive a free John Hunter Address Book and Perpetual Diary Set and a 15% discount with all online purchases use the **promotional code FR15MAR12** at checkout.

This code is valid 1 March – 31 May 2012.



## NEW LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS

### ***The Playbill and its People: Australia's Earliest Printed Document* by Gillian Russell**

People in the Georgian period were fascinated by the theatrical experience. The sociability of going to the theatre, the crush of the crowd getting in, the laughter and tears of the audience were at least as meaningful as the performances on stage, if not more so.

Imagine such a scene in Sydney, Saturday, 30 July 1796. It was a cool winter's evening. Towards half past five, 200 people or more, began to gather around the playhouse door. Saturday was the last day of the working week and it was time to meet friends, make music, get drunk or go to a play. Performed by local amateurs, the evening's entertainment consisted of the tragedy *Jane Shore*, a pantomime dance called *The Wapping Landlady* and a farce known as *The Miraculous Cure*. In 2007 a librarian at the Library and Archives Canada Library came across a fragile sheet of paper inserted inside a book. It was the playbill advertising the evening of entertainment that had taken place, halfway across the world, over two centuries before. The playbill is the earliest printed document in the history of Australia to be so far discovered and in 2011 it was included on the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register.

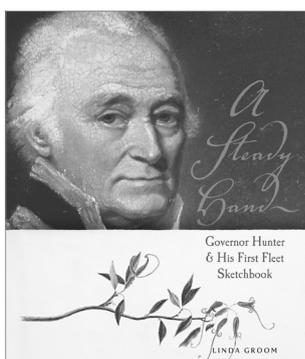
As a piece of ephemera the playbill offers tantalizing glimpses of the social and cultural life of the early colony. What is the significance of the plays performed? Who were the players and their audiences? Gillian Russell answers all of these questions and more, in this fascinating account of the history and significance of the playbill.

ISBN 978-0-642-27738-1

2012, pb, 180 x 180 mm, 152pp

RRP \$24.95

### ***A Steady Hand: Governor Hunter and his First Fleet Sketchbook* by Linda Groom**



History looks back on John Hunter with mixed reviews. Some biographers are critical of his leadership style as the Governor of Port Jackson (Sydney). Others say he was a failure at sea. Linda Groom, author of *A Steady Hand*, disagrees on both counts, claiming that Hunter was an outstanding seaman whose mere survival as governor was an achievement for his time.

In October 1788 Governor Arthur Phillip ordered the *Sirius* to sail from Port Jackson to Cape Town for supplies. Hunter's decision to take the easterly route past Cape Horn made for a record fast passage, even though the *Sirius* had to dodge icebergs, lost men to scurvy and was nearly wrecked in violent weather off the south of Tasmania.

Hunter's successful return to Sydney Cove was a dramatic moment. People in the settlement erupted in joy to find they would not starve. Some say that if Hunter had not succeeded, the colony would have failed, as many in America did.

Hunter began his sketchbook in the same year he made his life-saving journey to Cape Town. Twenty-six of Hunter's paintings in his sketchbook were copied from paintings by one of his midshipmen, George Raper, although Hunter brings his own (often humorous) interpretation to them.

Following in the footsteps of the highly successful *First Fleet Artist* and *Business of Nature*, *A Steady Hand* contains a biography of John Hunter, followed by luxurious colour plates of his work.

ISBN 978-0-642-27707-7

2012, hb, 284 x 233 mm, 236 pp

RRP \$49.95



**SPRING TOUR TO THE BLUE MOUNTAINS**  
**Saturday 22 – Sunday 23 September 2012**

Tour leader for the weekend will be Friends Committee member Anne Davis.

**Draft Itinerary**

**Day 1 – Canberra – Leura – Katoomba**

Depart the National Library at 8.00am

We turn off the Hume Highway at Picton exit and take the scenic drive through the beautiful Camden Valley.

Break at Picton or Camden for comfort stop/ morning tea (30 mins).

Arrive at Wentworth Falls for a light lunch at the historic Grand Hotel, before departing for Leura (5 mins drive)

Stroll around Everglades Gardens at Leura– a 'Paul Sorenson Garden'.

\*Everglades is one of Australia's foremost heritage gardens. This gem from the 1930s sits in twelve and a half acres of European-style gardens and native Australian bush with breathtaking views over the Jamison Valley in the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains.

Enjoy the many galleries and boutiques, restaurants and delis at Leura.

We depart Leura for Katoomba (5 min drive). Around Katoomba there are many interesting options available for sightseeing, some of which are:

- \* Visit Echo Point Visitor Information centre overlooking the 3 sisters.
- \* Scenic Cliff Drive – breathtaking views of the Three Sisters, Mount Solitary and Jamison valley.
- \* Stroll around the boardwalk and learn about the towering rain forest through the interpretive signage.
- \* Learn of the regions special environment value at the Edge Giant Screen Cinema, with its 6 story screen – a 'virtual reality' experience of hidden canyons and breathtaking landscapes.
- \* Stroll around Katoomba's cafes including the Paragon Café or visit the gallery.

Overnight accommodation at the Carrington Hotel at Katoomba. Special dinner at Carrington Hotel with guest speaker (speaker TBC).

## Day 2 – Katoomba – Wentworth Falls – Falconbridge – Canberra

Breakfast and check out by 9.00 a.m.

Take the scenic drive to Wentworth Falls where we visit:

\* Tarella Cottage Museum - spring garden tour of the cottage and historic photographic display. Morning tea from choice of home-made refreshments (optional - additional cost).

\*Charles Darwin Walk, Falls Reserve and the Valley of the Waters (optional).

Drive to Falconbridge (20 mins) to the Norman Lindsay Gallery.

\* The Norman Lindsay Gallery at Falconbridge is the home of the Magic Pudding and displays the work of artist and writer Norman Lindsay (1879-1969). Run by the National Trust, the sandstone cottage and landscaped grounds are open 7 days a week and there is a specialist gift shop and cafe.

\*Light lunch at Norman Lindsay Gallery (depart Blue Mountains between 2 – 3 pm)

We head for home via the Nepean Valley, comfort stop at historic Cobbitty Village, Cobbitty Rd, Cobbitty.

\* Governor Macquarie named this area Cobbedee, and when Gregory Blaxland was granted land here in 1812, he called it Cubbady Farm. The village of Cobbitty, nestled on the Nepean River, attracts much interest because of the lush country views and beautifully kept historic buildings.

Arrive Canberra 6 – 7 pm

### Bookings:

If you would like to join the tour, please contact the Friends Executive Officer, Sharyn O'Brien, in the first instance to determine room availability. Ph 02 6262 1551 or email [friends@nla.gov.au](mailto:friends@nla.gov.au).

Once room availability has been confirmed please complete the attached booking form and return it with payment to the Friends office. **Bookings will not be accepted without payment and a completed form.**

A deposit of \$115 per person (or \$230 per person for single rooms) must be paid by at the time of booking to secure your accommodation. This deposit is non-refundable unless we are able to fill your room booking. The balance of your ticket must be paid by 30 April 2012. Cancellations made before 30 August will be refunded, less the non-refundable accommodation deposit.

Completed booking forms and payment may placed in an unsealed envelope and left at the National Library Bookshop (open 7-days a week) for collection by Friends Office staff or posted to:

2012 Blue Mountains Tour  
Friends of the National Library  
National Library of Australia  
Canberra ACT 2600

Those paying by credit card may also scan and email their booking form to [friends@nla.gov.au](mailto:friends@nla.gov.au)

For enquiries, contact the Friends Office on (02) 6262 1698 or (02) 6262 1551 or [friends@nla.gov.au](mailto:friends@nla.gov.au).



**SPRING TOUR TO THE BLUE MOUNTAINS  
Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 September 2012**

**Booking Form**

Full name(s):.....

Friends membership number (if applicable):.....

Address:.....

..... Postcode: .....

Home telephone:..... Mobile:.....

Email:.....

Dietary requirements (please circle):

None    Vegetarian    Diabetic    Other (please specify).....

Do you have any special medication or medical conditions that we should know about?  
(this information will remain confidential)

.....  
.....  
.....

Contact person in case of accident or illness:

Name:.....

Contact numbers for weekend of 22-23 September 2012:.....

**Payment details**

Cost: **Double/Twin rooms**  
Members of the Friends of the National Library \$325 per person  
Non-Members \$340 per person  
**Single rooms**  
Members of the Friends of the National Library \$440 per person  
Non-Members \$455 per person

*(As the Carrington Hotel has no single rooms, those requiring a single will be given a double room and charged the additional \$115)*

A minimum deposit of \$115 per person (\$230 for single rooms) is required at the time of booking to secure your accommodation. Any remaining fees must be paid by 30 April 2012.

I enclose a cash/cheque payment of \$.....

Cheques should be made payable to 'Friends of the National Library of Australia'

OR

I wish to pay \$..... by Visa / Mastercard

Card number: ..... / ..... / ..... / ..... Expiry date: .....

Full name on card: .....

Signature: .....

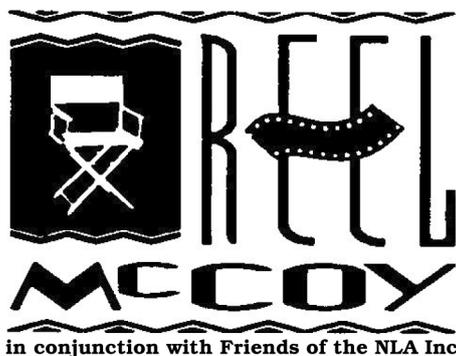
Balance (if any) remaining to be paid by 30 April 2012: \$.....

Completed booking forms and payment can be placed in an unsealed envelope and left at the National Library Bookshop (open 7 days a week) for collection by Friends Office staff or posted to:

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Enquiries: (02) 6262 1698 or [friends@nla.gov.au](mailto:friends@nla.gov.au)



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6 months \$30, 1 year \$45  
**Friends of NLA** 1 or 2 years,  
various rates, details at screenings  
or [www.nla.gov.au/friends/](http://www.nla.gov.au/friends/)  
**Patron** Bruce Hodsdon

### February 1

#### DINNER AT EIGHT

(USA 1933) 113 min. 16 mm

**Director** George Cukor **Cast** Billie Burke, Marie Dressler, John Barrymore, Wallace Beery, Jean Harlow, Lionel Barrymore

Adapted by a crack team of MGM writers from a crack contemporary stage play, the film juggles a dozen star performers, all playing guests at the all-important dinner party thrown by the grand society snob Mrs. Jordan (Burke). While the hostess frets herself silly making sure every lavish detail of the event is perfect, the guests are



scheming, bickering, backstabbing, having affairs with one another, and minting some superb wisecracks. The film hustles us through events at a giddy pace; when dinner is eventually served, we rather doubt anyone will find the time to sit down and eat.

*Print courtesy of the National  
Film and Sound Archive of Australia*

### February 15

#### LONELY HEARTS

(Australia 1981) 95 min. DVD

**Director** Paul Cox **Cast** Wendy Hughes, Norman Kaye, Jon Finlayson, Julia Blake

A piano tuner with a whimsical streak, Peter (Kaye) goes to a dating agency in search of a companion. He meets a shy



and dowdy bank clerk Patricia (Hughes) and despite an age difference

of 20 years and an awkward start, their romance blossoms but they still have to deal with their overbearing family members. The film is written by Paul Cox and John Clarke (yes, the John Clarke on the 7:30 report). The AFI named this film the best of 1982 and it helped introduce Paul Cox to an international audience.

*DVD courtesy of the National  
Film and Sound Archive of Australia*

### February 29

#### IT ALWAYS RAINS ON SUNDAY

(UK 1947) 92 min. 16 mm

**Director** Robert Hamer **Cast** Googie Withers, Jack Warner, John McCallum, Edward Chapman, Jimmy Hanley, Susan Shaw, Patricia Plunkett

An odd film that doesn't fit neatly into the Ealing Studio's standard output, it is best described as a kind of ensemble-cast film noir, transplanted to the constantly raining London of popular imagination. Doris Sandigate (Withers), a put-upon East-End housewife runs into her former lover one Sunday. He has just escaped from prison and needs a place to hide. Doris puts him up in her own house – without telling the rest of her family. While this is the main plot thread, we are also allowed to follow the stories of other associated characters, including Doris's family, and a dim-witted gang of thieves whose target is a shipment of roller skates.

*Print courtesy of the National  
Film and Sound Archive of Australia*

### March 14

#### ASHES AND DIAMONDS

(Poland 1958) 96 min. DVD

**Director** Andrzej Wajda **Cast** Zbigniew Cybulski, Waclaw Zastrzezynski, Ewa Krzyzewska, Adam Pawlikowski

**GUEST SPEAKER** Dr Roger Hillman, Lecturer, Film Studies ANU

This is Wajda's third feature film and is an adaptation of the 1948 novel of the same title by Jerzy Andrzejewski. On the last day of World War 2, Maciek (Cybulski), a young Resistance fighter,

is ordered to kill Szczuka (Zastrzezynski), a Communist district leader. Though killing had been easy for Maciek in the war, Szczuka was a fellow soldier, and Maciek must decide



whether to follow his orders. The film's viewpoint alternates in its examination of each character's moral dilemmas.

*DVD courtesy of the National  
Film and Sound Archive of Australia*

### March 28

#### HE WHO GETS SLAPPED

(USA 1924) 72 min. DVD

*silent with musical soundtrack*

**Director** Victor Seastrom **Cast** Lon Chaney, Norma Shearer, John Gilbert, Tully Marshall

A subdued Chaney offers one of his greatest performances as Paul Beaumont, a scientist shattered to discover that his wealthy patron has stolen both his wife and the credit for his work. After suffering the humiliation of being publicly slapped by both of them he punishes himself for his own stupidity by becoming a



clown in a circus with an act where he gets slapped more than a hundred times. Consuelo (Shearer) a horseback rider joins the show and Beaumont falls in love with her as does a fellow horseback rider (Gilbert) and his old patron.

*DVD courtesy of the National  
Film and Sound Archive of Australia*

## April 11 SANSHO THE BAILIFF

(Japan 1954) 124 min. 16 mm

**Director** Kenji Mizoguchi **Cast** Kinuyo Tanaka, Yoshiaki Hanayagi, Kyoko Kagawa

Kenji Mizoguchi is considered to be one of Japans greatest directors and *Sansho the Bailiff* is considered to be one of the best of all Japanese films. The film is named after the villain and based on a 500-year-old folk tale that tells the story of an exiled District Administrator, his wife, Tamiki, their young son, Zushio, and younger daughter, Anju, who suffer at the hands of the heartless Sansho. Mizoguchi closely observes the compositional rules of classic cinema. The film, which is set in 11th-century feudal times, reflects the director's feeling that humans and nature are the two sides of a coin. To view the film, which has been described as a lament for suffering but which does contain resolution, reconciliation and forgiveness, is to go on a journey of mythical proportions.

*Print courtesy of the National  
Film and Sound Archive of Australia*

## TUESDAY April 24 PATHS OF GLORY

(USA 1957) 86 min. 16 mm

**Director** Stanley Kubrick **Cast** Kirk Douglas, Ralph Meeker, Adolphe Menjou, George Macready

This shattering study, based on fact, of the insanity of war, has grown more profound with the years. During WW1, French general (Macready) orders his



men on a suicidal charge; when they fail, he picks three soldiers to be tried and executed for cowardice.

*Print courtesy of the National  
Film and Sound Archive of Australia*

## May 9 PIANOMANIA

(Austria/Germany 2009) 93 min. DVD

**Directors** Robert Cibis, Lilian Franck **Cast** Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Stephan Knupfer, Lang Lang

Austrian documentary about a piano tuner who works for famous pianists like Lang Lang and Pierre-Laurent Aimard. The first step to making a good documentary is picking an

interesting subject, and the film-makers have succeeded here.



Ostensibly about the intricate craft and skill involved in the maintenance of high quality pianos, it also has a broader theme of examining the obsessiveness (or "mania") that drives the enthusiastic and contagious energy of the expert (or "geek"). This was a nominee for Best Documentary at the 2009 European Film Awards.

*DVD courtesy of the National  
Film and Sound Archive of Australia*

## May 23 HIS GIRL FRIDAY

(USA 1940) 92 min. 16 mm

**Director** Howard Hawks **Cast** Cary Grant, Rosalind Russell, Ralph Bellamy, Gene Lockhart, Helen Mack

Rosalind and Cary trade wise-cracks, barbs, schemes, double-crosses and kisses in this fast-paced screwball newspaper saga. Based on the popular play, *The Front Page* by Ben Hecht and



Charles MacArthur about a reporter who wants to quit and a ruthless editor who won't let go, both get the story of their lives. Filmed a number of times, in this version director Howard Hawks had the bright idea of turning one of the male roles into a female played by Rosalind Russell. The result was magic.

*Print courtesy of the National  
Film and Sound Archive of Australia*

## June 6 THE CHESS PLAYERS

(India 1977) 120 min. 16 mm

**Director** Satyajit Ray **Cast** Sanjeev Kumar, Saeed Jaffrey, Shabana Azmi, Farida Jalal, Veena

It's 1856 in Northern India, and the British are looking to annex another kingdom. A British General comes on a secret mission to gauge the opposition, only to find a ruler who is

more interested in poetry and music, and courtiers who spend their time obsessively playing chess. Satyajit Ray's satirical drama about the defence of India is sumptuous, lyrical, comic and beautiful to watch.

*Print courtesy of the National  
Film and Sound Archive of Australia*

## June 20 THE PURPLE ROSE OF CAIRO

(USA 1985) 82 min. 16 mm

**Director** Woody Allen **Cast** Mia Farrow, Jeff Daniels, Danny Aiello, Dianne Wiest, Van Johnson

*The Purple Rose of Cairo* is a comedy-drama written and directed by Woody Allen. It is the tale of a film character who leaves a fictional film of the same name and enters the real world. The



story is about the woman's love for the fictional character and the tension that occurs when the real actor comes to town and she has to choose between the character on the screen and the real actor.

**Plus**

## SHERLOCK JR.

(USA 1924) 45 min. 16 mm

**Director** Buster Keaton **Cast** Buster Keaton, Kathryn McGuire, Ward Crane, Joseph Keaton

*Sherlock Jr.* is an early Buster Keaton film about the merging of a film with real life. A film projectionist is framed by a rival for stealing his girlfriend's father's pocket watch and dreams that he is in a movie as its detective hero.

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