



No. 173

March 2022

FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.)
NEWSLETTER

Our March 2022 meeting

Trevor Cross

*Scrimshaw: the folk art of the whalers
and other maritime trades*



Tuesday 8 March 2022 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm. See details on page 3.

End of year meeting.

Tuesday 8 March 2022
Great Southern Room, fourth floor
State Library of Western Australia
at 5pm for 5.30pm

Our speaker will be Trevor Cross

Scrimshaw

The Folk Art of the Whalers and other Maritime Trades.

After the meeting, members are very welcome to join us for a meal at a nearby Perth restaurant. Nick Drew will take bookings on the night.

Members please note: this information is correct at the time of going to print, but given the situation with recent outbreaks of Covid19, restrictions put in place before our scheduled meeting may mean cancellation, or strict limits placed on the numbers of people allowed to congregate in the Great Southern Room.

An email will be sent out before the meeting to let you know if there are to be any changes. For those of you not on email, it is best if you could ring the library on, or shortly before the meeting for clarification.

Problem with the stairs?

If any members have difficulty with taking the stairs to the fourth floor, please notify staff on either the ground floor reception desk or the Battye Library desk on the 3rd floor for access to the staff lift to the fourth floor.

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About Trevor Cross

Trevor's presentation is titled *Scrimshaw – The Folk Art of the Whalers and other Maritime Trades. The historic and the modern, the common and the rare*. It will be an illustrated address featuring work from around the World, Australian and Western Australian Collections.



Trevor Cross, collector, curator and researcher, has been a student of the art of scrimshaw for more than 35 years. He has travelled extensively, particularly to the east coast of the United States of America – the home of scrimshaw – and has had access to the vast collections of The Kendall Institute, New Bedford and Nantucket Whaling Museums and major private collections. He has worked with Dr Stuart Frank- the world's foremost authority and presented papers on Australian scrimshaw at Kendall and New Bedford symposiums. He was a close associate of the late Mr Des Liddy of Sydney, a leading authority on scrimshaw and the pioneer in the field of scientific detection of forgery and ageing of scrimshaw.

[Please note: Trevor will bring along some items from his collection for us to view. We are very grateful for Trevor's kindness, but it must be stressed that the objects are quite fragile and rare. They will be displayed strictly to look at from a short distance, no touching please. Handling could also damage the delicate inked work.]



Meeting dates for 2022

10 May	Professor Alistair Paterson: <i>Collecting Western Australia</i>
12 July	Bevan Carter: <i>Swan River Aboriginal land tenure 1829-1840</i>
13 September	(AGM) Dr Kate Gregory: <i>JB O'Reilly rediscovered</i>
22 November	(4th Tuesday) - End of year function. Judy McGuinness: <i>Salvado's brother Santos, their letters, and the New Norcia Mission.</i>

President's Piece

Welcome to a new year of activities for the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) and the third year of battling our way through this awful world-wide pandemic. I hope you are all keeping well and busy at this trying time. At present we plan a full year of talks and events at the State Library, always with the consciousness that Covid could mean that plans may have to be changed with very short notice.

I am very pleased to let you know that funds in our Maud Sholl Bequest have been accumulating nicely and we will have enough for a couple of valuable grants to assist the work done by the State Library and the State Records Office. The last major project we funded was the digitisation of some of the Anglican Church registers held in the Battye Library which will be a useful resource for WA genealogists and family historians.

In March we will say farewell to our long-serving State Librarian and CEO, Margaret Allen, who was awarded the Public Service Medal in the 2018 Australia Day Honours. Margaret has been head of the State Library of Western Australia for more than seventeen years and during that time has dealt with the many challenges of such an important role. Margaret is taking well-earned retirement and on behalf of all of us, I wish her the very best in her new life and thank her for her service, as well as for her support of the Friends over many years.

It also gives me pleasure to announce that our incoming State Librarian will be Ms Catherine Clark, formerly Curtin University Librarian.

The Hon. David Templeman, Dip Tchg, BEdn MLA, Minister for Culture and the Arts; Sport and Recreation; International Education; and Heritage issued a statement on 9 February 2022, an extract from which is here:

Well respected librarian and leader Catherine Clark has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer of the State Library of Western Australian and will commence on April 1, 2022.

Ms Clark will replace current CEO and State Librarian Margaret Allen PSM, who is retiring on March 31, 2022.

As the State Librarian, Ms Clark will be responsible for shaping and achieving the State Library's strategic, business, policy and budget objectives, and supporting the implementation of whole-of-government priorities.

Ms Clark has extensive experience working in complex library and information service environments, and is currently employed as Curtin University's Librarian and Director of John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library.

In this role, she leads the University's library and learning skills services across all of Curtin's learning, teaching and research community. She is responsible for libraries in the Western Australian campuses and also provides advice to Curtin's campuses in Dubai, Malaysia, Mauritius and Singapore.

We warmly welcome our new State Librarian and CEO and look forward to working with her and her team to help collect, preserve, and promote the JS Batty Library of West Australian History and its materials as well as to bring its stories to the wider public.

Richard Offen



Obituaries

Alexander (Alex) and Elizabeth (Beth) Palmer

Alex and Beth's son Nick advised us that Beth died on 24 September 2021 and Alex only weeks later on 5 November. Alex who was 94 and Beth, 96, were long time members and supporters of the Friends and we offer our sincerest sympathy to their family on the loss of their parents.



Wendy Birman (1926-1921)

Frances Wendy Birman, nee Blake, died on 23 November 2021. The State Library of WA paid tribute to her as a Fellow of the Library Board and provided information about Wendy and her life.

Wendy graduated from the University of Western Australia in 1947 and gained a Carnegie scholarship to study librarianship at the Public Library of New South Wales. She was Librarian of the University of Western Australia's Adult Education Board from 1949-54.

On 5 September 1952 Wendy married John Birman and they had three sons. Wendy's husband John was one of the founders of the Festival of Perth.

Wendy retired in 1973 to pursue her passion for history. She worked as a part-time contributor to the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, contributed to numerous academic projects, and wrote articles about many aspects of Western Australian history. She is the author of *Gregory of Rainworth: a man in his time* which was published in 1979 by UWA Press.

Wendy was appointed to the Library Board in 1982, serving as Vice Chairperson from 1989-90 and later as Chairperson from 1991-93. Ever the forward thinker, as Chairperson Wendy championed the State Library's use of emergent electronic technologies and encouraged full engagement with the online world. Upon naming her a Library Board Fellow in 1994, succeeding Chairperson, Professor Brian De Garis, commended Wendy for her years of service 'well beyond the call of duty' in all her roles.

I personally knew Wendy in her latter career as a thoughtful mentor and friend to many. Her gentle wisdom and kindness to all who knew her is her lasting legacy. She will be much missed. Our condolences to her family.

Jennie Carter



Wendy Birman (Australian National University.)

End of Year Function November 2021

A very successful EoY function was again held in the State Library's Great Southern Room on the fourth floor. Our speakers were Bill and Jenny Bunbury who gave an enthralling talk on writing their award winning book *Many Maps*. At the conclusion of the meeting the *Gem of Time* for 2021 was awarded to Rob O'Connor QC and below is the citation which was read out to enthusiastic applause.

After Bill and Jenny's talk, members who had booked for the dinner, moved next door to the staff dining room for a fully catered meal. The tables looked very festive and the stylishly presented raffle prizes were in hot demand. As is becoming a custom, we had several quizzes that caused much head-scratching, hilarity, and intense debate.

Sincere thanks to our amazing organisers, Pamela and Nick, who work tirelessly on behalf of the Friends. Our appreciation also to Shirley, Heather, and the willing helpers from the Friends committee. Particular thanks to Cherie and Lorraine who organised and provided the superb raffle prizes. Although it is an enormous oversight that I didn't win one!

Jennie Carter



Gem of Time citation

Robert Kenneth (Rob) O'Connor QC

Rob O'Connor joined the Friends in 1989 and has been a highly valued committee member for fifteen years. Although he retired from active involvement in 2021, Rob will always be a cherished Friend.

Rob was born in York Western Australia and graduated with a Bachelor of Law (First Class Honours) from the Australian National University in 1974. He is one of our State's most respected barristers and in December 1989 was made a Queen's Counsel in recognition of his high standing in the legal profession. His superb legal knowledge has been put to good use during his time on the Friends Committee. He redrafted our new Constitution and has given us pro bono legal advice on many issues over the years. Among the most outstanding of these would be his work on our Maud Sholl bequest. Although the gift was left to the Friends nearly forty years ago it is thanks to Rob's skill and advocacy

that the conditions of administering this major bequest have been made more efficient.

Rob has long had a fascination for history and has written many papers and articles over the years for our *Newsletter* and other publications on a variety of subjects. His interests in naval and military history and his knowledge of early 19th century warfare is renowned and reflected in some of these pieces.



For many years Rob has been a member of the State Records Office Advisory Commission (SRAC), and is a life member of the Francis Burt Law Education Centre. Among other interests, he has been closely involved with the Nelson Society and the Law History Society of WA, and is a long term member of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, the National Trust, and the Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL). For the past nine years he has been closely involved in the annual series of lectures named for Lieutenant Frederick Bell VC. A feature film based on Rob's biography of Lawrence Dominic McCarthy VC is currently in production.

A strong sense of justice and ethics underpins Rob's life and interaction with people. He was one of the barristers who appeared for sufferers of Mesothelioma in the successful 1988 'Wittenoom Asbestos' case, and he has provided his services free of charge to represent refugees in the High Court. He has endowed annual prizes at every one of the Western Australian universities and has been a board member of the South Perth Hospital and a long standing member of Rotary.

His list of achievements and honours are varied and many, but it is Rob's countless, mostly unheralded, acts of kindness, care, and compassion which are evidence of his gentleness and dedication to others.

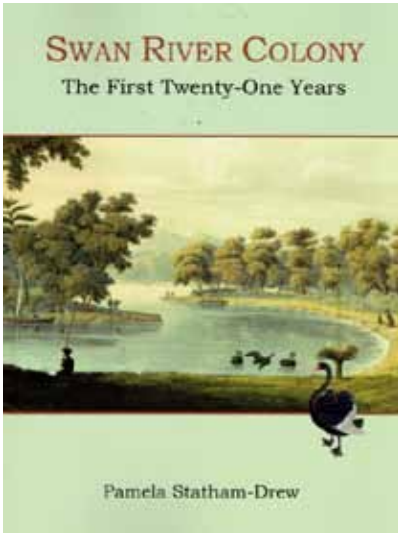
The Friends of the Battye Library (Inc.) has awarded Rob's commitment and support by listing him as a ***Gem of Time*** – a list that will last to acknowledge the contribution of outstanding individuals to the recording, collection, and preservation of Western Australia's history.

Members' news

New Publication

Swan River Colony: The First Twenty-One Years

This book written by Pamela Statham Drew covers the progress of the infant Swan River settlement through to the introduction of convicts in 1850. It encompasses the initial years of starvation, gradual consolidation, discovery of an export industry, a devastating depression, then strong recovery almost negating any need for convicts. The book also details, in a separate chapter, the impact of European settlement on the original inhabitants showing how, despite their vigorous rebellion, they were completely dispossessed of their land by 1850.



Copies are available for \$40 each plus \$5 for postage from Pandorus Publications.

Please Email Nick Drew nickdrew@bigpond.com or phone him on 0409

290 895. Electronic transfer payment details are BSB 066 103 Account No 1016 8544 or you can either order by phone using a credit or debit card. Copies will be available for sale to members and guests at our Tuesday 8 March meeting.



Have you a story to tell?

[Our President, Richard Offen, is well-known for his skill in writing and broadcasting on Western Australian historical events and people of note. English-born Richard has said that he fell in love with Perth on a visit here more than twenty years ago, and is the author of Lost Perth and Perth

Then and Now. *He has often commented on his childhood fascination for history and love of reading.*]

Numbers on Labels

As a youngster growing up in the small Kentish market town of Tenterden, I was an avid user of our local public library. My particular interest was the 'non-fiction' section, where I discovered I could quench my insatiable thirst for information on every aspect of the world I lived in.

One day I asked one of the librarians (a good friend of my mother's, so to me, not as formidable as the other librarians appeared!) what the little numbers on the sticky labels attached to the spine of every book was about? She then introduced me to the library's card index and showed me how to use it and the numbering system it employed to find the books I wanted to read. What she didn't explain was the origin of this, to me, strange numbering system, or that it had been in use since 1876.

The man responsible for this clever system was Melville Louis Kossuth 'Melvil' Dewey, an American librarian who was a pioneer in American librarianship and an influential, if controversial, figure in the development of libraries across America throughout his working life.

Immediately after graduating from Amherst College, Massachusetts, he was recruited to manage the college's library and reclassify its collections. To help with this work, Dewey devised a new scheme that superimposed a system of decimal numbers on a structure of knowledge first outlined by Sir Francis Bacon (a system for cataloguing books under three categories – history, poetry, and philosophy). The decimal system he devised was first published in a 44 page booklet in 1876 – the year he took out a copyright on his invention.

From those small beginnings, the system has become the most widely used classification tool in the world, with libraries in more than 135 countries using it to organise and provide access to their collections.

In addition to his library work, Dewey found



Melvil Dewey -
Smithsonian Institute
Magazine June 28, 2019.

time to establish the famous Lake Placid Club. This club eventually became renowned for winter sports facilities, with the club's founder later chairing the New York State Winter Olympics Committee. Dewey died on Boxing Day, 1931.

I found all this out by using the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) system! However, what I did not find out about via that route was that for all his cleverness, he was actually a very unpleasant man and I am most grateful to Jennie Carter for the following information:

Melvil Dewey was certainly an important figure in library history, but he was not a nice person at all. Dewey was forced to resign from the American Library Association (ALA) because of his sexual harassment and abuse of young female staff. The fact that this happened as early as 1906 is evidence that his must have been at the serious end of predatory offending. Jewish, 'Asiatic', or African-American library staff and teachers were also banned from the Lake Placid resort during the years he was in control of it.

The DDC system has gone through many changes over the years, important early amendments were to temper or remove Dewey's overt antisemitism, racism, sexism, and homophobia from the classifications. Melvil Dewey has been hailed as a genius, but he was still a creep. Surprisingly it was not until 2019 that his name was at last removed from the ALA's top award for librarianship.

Richard Offen (with help from former librarian Jennie Carter)



[One of Bevan Carter's research interests is the lives of convicts in Western Australia. He is the Convenor of Family History WA's Convict SIG whose members are currently compiling a database of criminals transported to WA and what happened to them after they arrived. Bevan has written several articles for this newsletter on this theme.]

Early Goomalling identities

My family farmed at Konnongorring, half way between Goomalling and Wongan Hills. I was born at Goomalling and I occasionally return, sadly most often nowadays to attend funerals.

The wake for a one time neighbour of mine, Colin Chitty, was held at the old Slater homestead, now a National Trust WA property.



Slater homestead with school surrounded by peppercorn trees. (Goomalling shire

The Slater family is intricately linked with the history of the Goomalling district and when the first white settler, George Slater, died aged 88 on 7 January 1917, it was a noted event.

“Mr George Slater is dead”, was the word passed around on Sunday last. He died at the old Coomallin home that morning. [He] was the first man to settle in the Goomalling district. In those days it was clothed in its virgin beauty, and the blacks were the only inhabitants. This was about sixty five years since Mr Slater settling at what was then known as Coomallin. He acquired a vast track of land and engaged in stock raising. [*Goomalling-Dowerin Mail 12 January 1917.*]

George Slater was born in Oxfordshire in 1828 and arrived in Western Australia with his parents on the *Simon Taylor* in 1842. In 1857 he married Mary Lynch of Toodyay and they had twelve children. He employed many ticket-of-leave men on his farms over the years and one of them, John Bentley, who had been convicted of shop breaking at Liverpool and arrived on the *Clara* in 1857, stayed with the family from 1859 until his death in 1888. Bentley’s fervent wish was to be buried on the paddock he had helped clear opposite the Slater homestead and a very grand grave bears testament to his wish being granted (see p.14).

When George and Mary’s children neared school age, George built a two room school building with one of the rooms as quarters for a teacher. The building is adjacent to the homestead and is also a part of the heritage site. One of the first teachers was Thomas Duggan, a pardoned Fenian (all civilian Fenians were officially pardoned by British Parliament in February 1869). Although Duggan had a wife and family in Ireland, he never returned home, nor did he, unlike several other men



The plaque opposite the Slater homestead reads: ‘

This monument stands on land that was once heavily timbered. John Bentley who died about 1880 lies buried here by his own wish in the paddock he cleared.’ (Shire of Goomalling).

in his situation, marry again. Thomas Duggan was the sole teacher at the Slater’s school for about ten years. In all he taught in the district for some 30 years before moving to Perth where he died in 1913 the same year as Mary Slater.

The *Sunday Times* featured Duggan’s story under the heading ‘The Last But One’:

In 1865 Mr. Duggan was teacher of the National School at Ballincallig, near Cork City, and had risen to a position of trust in the Irish Republican Brotherhood, to which O’Donovan Rossa had given the title of Fenians. Tried and convicted of sedition, he was sent to Portland prison where he remained for two years, and was then transported to Western Australia, arriving in the Hougoumont, with 69 other Fenians in 1868. After the expiration of his sentence Mr Duggan engaged in private teaching, and subsequently conducted a Government school in Goomalling.” [*Sunday Times* 4 January 1914]

Bevan Carter



Voices that Should be Heard

[Ronda Jamieson’s popular series based on the oral history collections of the Battye Library is back.]

Clara Benzie (1899-1988) OH434

Clara Emily Benzie was born in Gregory Street (the first street in Geraldton) in 1899, which is where she was interviewed in 1981. Her

father, Samuel Crabbe, came to Western Australia from Victoria looking for work after gold discoveries. He walked the 415kms from Perth to Geraldton and worked on the Midland Railway, marrying Emily Bosley in 1887 when she was seventeen. She was born in Guildford and they had eleven children.

Samuel travelled to Cue on the gravel track with six horses and a dray to take fodder and food supplies. During one trip, a flood came through Greenough and the Murchison and washed away everything the family possessed, 'hut and all'. He then built a tent at Bluff Point with floorboards and wooden sides to make it comfortable. Other family members were born during the years in tents. 'My father worked across the road at Wainwrights from eight o'clock in the morning till eight at night, six bob a day making up orders'. Samuel then started his own carrier business carting goods from the railways to Dalgety's warehouse and wool skins for skin merchants.



Wool appraisers in Dalgety's Wool Store, Geraldton in 1917.
(Battye Library, SLWA 006180D)

The first born in the family was Mary, who was eleven years older than Clara and who married a railway fireman and had seven children. Leonard was next and 'went on the farm'. He joined the artillery in 1915 during the First World War and was aged 27 when he was killed in France in 1917. Richard worked in Dalgetys. Edith was born in 1893,

Clara followed and then Norman in 1900, John Edward in 1903, Stanley in 1905, and Harry in 1907. Ronald Keith, born in 1913, died aged 16. Only four of the eleven children were alive at the time of the interview which led Clara to say:

I'm the healthiest of the four, nothing wrong with me. I don't want to live a long while though, oh no. Alright if I can look after myself and I can stay here. People have offered to buy my house: "Go into a home." I said, "I won't go into a home, stop where I am, while I can". You're independent when you've got your own home.

When the family moved into a house, it was not a big one and three or four children shared a bedroom. There was no laid-on water and a well was used with the boys responsible for filling a wooden barrel for the family to have their weekly bath sharing the same water.

Clara preferred to play with her brothers, rather than her sisters, which she felt meant she 'grew up tough' and strong. When she decided she wanted to be a nurse, her mother told her that was not possible because she needed Clara to stay and help with the boys. There were happy memories of swimming at the beach, 'because the sea used to call me'. At first, people did not swim in the open sea until Miss Bardwell taught life saving during weekly half-hour swimming lessons. They gave participants the confidence to swim in the ocean and Clara remembered being among the first to do so. There was no 'mixed' bathing with the boys swimming on one side of the jetty and the girls on the other. The boys' side was affected by strong winds so mixed bathing followed with someone keeping a look out to warn swimmers of an approaching policeman.

We had to wear neck to knee bathers ... tops and legs. ... That's all I wanted was a pair of bathers, it didn't matter about a dress; I was a tomboy. We weren't allowed to go down to the beach in our bathers. Council orders. There was a dressing shed. Couldn't go in the street in bathers, even with a towel round you.

In Fremantle, many years ago, in High Street, a man had a bet with another fellow, that he'd walk up the High Street in his bathers. He got fined five pounds.

According to Clara, Miss Bardwell may have been the first woman to swim in the Swim Through Perth which Clara did later.

In her youth, Clara remembered dances but she did not dance. 'I was too sunburnt to go anywhere.' Others enjoyed skating, but 'I was too busy on the beach; that's all I wanted'.

Clara's father bought a farm at Mount Erin, 25 miles out of Geraldton, and she loved going there for holidays. When she was older, she was sent there to cook for her father and brothers. It was a 2-roomed house. 'I'd hop on a horse and go for a ride around the paddocks ... I could do anything that a boy could those days. Fight too.'

Clara remembered the Bubonic plague and how 'we all had to be vaccinated. ... It came from a ship with flour and the men in the bakehouse caught it and they died and there were several died'. She also said the community was good at supporting people in need. A house might be bought for a widow.

Clara was 25 when she married William Benzie, a fitter and turner who worked on the railways. They had three sons: Noel, Alwyn and Stan born over a three-year period.

During the Depression, there were a lot of people out of work. Some of Will's mates in the railway got put off:

They used to come round here, you know, and I'd give them something to eat, a lump of bread or a bit of meat. But they had a tough time. ... They jolly well starved just about.

During the Second World War barbed wire was used to stop people using the beaches and other areas were fenced. Americans stationed in Geraldton took over several places, including the 'Protestant Home for Country Girls; they all had to get out'.

Long after the war, Clara watched people water skiing and wanted to try but was told she was too old. Aged 60, it took her three months but she eventually stood up 'It was lovely'. Water carnivals in Perth followed.

Clara's husband died 23 years before our interview and she recalled:

The boys are good to me. The eldest boy (Noel) went to Broome when he was seventeen, and he used to write every week ... (Alwyn) joined the Navy at seventeen. He was fourteen years in the Navy, and he's fifty three now and he's written every week since he's been away ... I still get a weekly letter from him. Very nice. (Stan) went to teachers' college at seventeen.

The Oral History Program also includes an interview with Clara Benzie's brother, Jack Crabbe, who lived opposite his sister and who was interviewed on the same day (0H437). He had emphysema and Clara had looked after him for twenty years, taking him meals and helping with his medical needs.

Treasures from Trove

[Heather Campbell is not only our Society's marvellous Secretary, she is also a skilled researcher, historian, and author. This article is the sixth in her series on delving into the wonders of the NLA's 'Trove' database of Western Australian newspapers.]

Happy Easter from a hundred years ago

Railway excursions were popular 'The Railway Department has made special train arrangements for persons desirous of visiting, Albany, Bunbury, Busselton and Kalgoorlie during the Easter holidays'. [*West Australian*, 1 April 1922, p 8] Holiday resorts were booming as were cinemas and theatres, with the Palace Gardens Theatre, Boulder, advertising extra programmes including *Two Kinds of Love*, a five-act drama on Good Friday night. Post offices, groceries and butchers' shops were closed for the duration and tradespeople did not call, which gave

... the housewife the food problem to juggle with. These uncommon recipes may help her to solve the difficulty – 'Luncheon Menu; Pulled Pineapple, Chicken Salad in Eclair Cases, Tomato, Green Corn and Lima Bean Salad, Asparagus Omelet, Sultana Scones.'

To give the lady every assistance detailed recipes for pineapple with green chartreuse are included (to be served at the 'beginning of lunchtime') and also for chicken salad in éclair cases. [*Sunday Times* 16 April 1922, p.24]



Western Mail, 21 March 1940
[yes I know it's not 1922, but it's a great picture!]

Of course Easter eggs are timeless, as is their promotion:

Confectioners' windows are full of Easter eggs. Some are very elaborate, and have dainty little gifts inside. Others have little yellow chickens just popping out. The chicken ones might take on in the country, but they won't be popular here in town, for the eggs at breakfast these days are just about ready to pop out, long before Easter. [*Midlands Advertiser*, 31 March 1922, p.1]

Not everybody approved:

Easter eggs have been on sale in the confectioners' shops for a considerable time. No doubt those made of chocolate are bought by indulgent mothers and eaten by impatient children long before the proper time comes

round. The proverb "He gives twice who gives quickly," assuredly applies to parents who buy their Easter eggs beforehand. [*Australian*, 14 April 1922, p.4]

What about church I hear you ask? Churches of all denominations provided a breathtaking variety of Easter services at various times, for those who could tear themselves away from the temptations of decadence.

Easter Services. Good Friday will be observed by Anglicans as a day of meditation and devotion. At the Cathedral there will be Litany and Ante Communion services at 8am., and matins: at 11 o'clock, at which the preacher will be the Archbishop of Perth, and a three hours' devotion from 12 to 3, at which the Dean of Perth will give the addresses.

Special services will also be held throughout the various Anglican Churches in the dioceses. On Easter Day at the Cathedral there will be celebrations of the Holy Communion at 6, 7, 8, and 11 o'clock. when the preacher will be the Archbishop of Perth. There will be children's service at 3 o'clock, and evensong on 7.30 p.m. The preacher will be the Dean.

To-night (Good Friday) Mr. A J Batchelor, secretary in Western Australia to the Australian Board of Missions, will show the lantern pictures of the Crucifixion at St. Patrick's, Inglewood. ... At Wesley Church this morning a service will be held, followed by Holy Communion. This evening commencing at 8 o'clock, the Perth Wesley Church Choir will render the sacred, cantata "Olivet to Calvary" (Maunder). ... A morning service will also be held at Como. Holy Communion will follow the service. At Wesley Church, Fremantle, today, both services will be conducted by the Rev. A E Davey. The subject in the morning will be "The Easter Message," and that in the evening "A Thrilling Seven Miles Walk".

A service will be held in Bagot-road Methodist Church, Subiaco. this morning. commencing at 11. The preacher will be Rev. C A Jenkins. This evening the service of song "The Lord Our Saviour" will be rendered by the church choir. The connective teachings will be given by Rev. C A Jenkins.

At Trinity Congregational Church divine service will be held at 11 o'clock; the Rev. G A Williamson Legge will be the preacher. The choir, under Mr. H C Goff will render Stainer's "The Crucifixion" at 8 p.m. ...

At Fremantle on Good Friday morning at 11 o'clock a united service will be held in the Johnston Memorial Church. Several ministers will take part, and the sermon will be preached by the Rev. A E Davey. At

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West Australian
23 March 1922, p.5.

the Spiritualistic Endeavour Church, Temperance Hall, Miss Lilley will conduct a dedication service tomorrow night at 7.30. [*West Australian* 14 April 1922, p.6]

Hopefully, busy housewives managed to attend and enjoy some quiet meditation about the real meaning of Easter, after serving the family luncheon of pineapple with green chartreuse and chicken salad in éclair cases.

Best wishes for Easter and for 2022 to all Friends of the Battye Library.

Heather Campbell



News from the State Library

Events, exhibitions, projects, acquisitions

Izzy Orloff Exhibition 28 January – 17 April 2022



Izzy Orloff with puppies and child at Rottneest 1919. (Battye Library, SLWA 112193PD)

Community Engagement Officer Carina McPherson has curated an evocative exhibition of photographs from our Izzy Orloff collection, which will be exhibited on the ground floor until 17 April.

Abraham “Izzy” Orloff was one of Western Australia’s most significant photographers from the 1920s onwards. The exhibition features some exceptional photographs of Western Australia in another age from street scenes in Fremantle and Izzy’s family to the doomed pride of the British navy HMS *Hood* (later sunk by the *Bismark* in 1941).

Battye Fellow 2022

The Battye Fellow for 2022 is Chloe Bartram, a post-graduate student at Murdoch University. Chloe’s subject is the 1922 Solar Eclipse Expedition to Wallal in the Kimberley. Chloe’s focus is photographic, which is fortuitous and coincides with a substantial photographic

collection of the expedition at SLWA. We are planning for Chloe to give a presentation on the centenary of the eclipse in September 2022.

Virtual Reality

Virtual Reality headsets have been recently acquired at State Library, so that members of the public can access the recent *Reflections of Iwanoff* film. Public sessions have been offered on 20 December and 21 January. The content on offer for these sessions were:

- *Reflections of Iwanoff* – a VR experience based on SLWA's architectural records of the Iwanoff-designed Harrison House.
- XR:WA 360-degree cinema – six short films shot in 360 degrees capturing a variety of content including the FourbyFour films which depict SLWA, PICA, AGWA and the STC via newly composed, choreographed and recorded dance and music pieces, *One Day in Peel*: a timelapse trip through the Peel region, and *Beethoven's Illusion*: a performance of excerpts of Beethoven's fifth symphony by WASO at the Perth Concert Hall.
- First Steps – simple games to introduce users to the concept of virtual reality via the Oculus headset and controllers.
- Epic Rollercoasters – a rollercoaster simulator for thrill-seekers.

More sessions will be organised as new content emerges.

Limen

SLWA is honoured to have been asked to host the film *Limen – 'At the fence'* in the Nook which recreates moments from the institutionalisation of mixed descent Aboriginal children at mission sites. Shadows of the past, silhouettes of resilience and portraits of survival provide us with a shared space to engage with the Survivors. To hear their stories at the place where they spent their years of childhood feeling lost, isolated, traumatised and stolen.

The exhibition is an outcome of the work being done at the Stolen Generations Immersive Hub, Curtin University, in partnership with Bringing Them Home WA.

Covid

With the onset of the Omicron variant face masks are now compulsory for public and staff on the premises at State Library (except people with

an approved exemption). The State Library has not been included in the list of buildings that require proof of vaccination. The intention is to keep the State Library open to the public as a key community resource as far as possible and staff contingencies have been planned to ensure that is maintained.

Untapped: The Australian Literary Heritage Project



Author Katherine Susanna Prichard.
Portrait by by Enid Dickson, 1945.
(Battye Library, SLWA BA898/1)

The State Library is excited to be participating in this new collaboration between libraries, authors and researchers. *Untapped* identifies Australia's lost literary treasures, which are out of print and has brought them back to life. A whole host of these books are now newly available to read by downloading the Overdrive or Borrowbox app and using your library membership to access the books. There are WA titles like Steve Hawke's *Noonkanbah*, Katherine Susannah Prichard's *Intimate Strangers* and Peter Cowan's *The Color of the Sky* as well as classics from the rest of Australia like Vance Palmer's *The Big Fellow*, Carmel Bird's *The Bluebird Café* and TAG Hungerford's *Riverslake*.

New Acquisitions at the State Library

Reg Walters Collection

Reginald James Walters was born in 1891 in North Fitzroy, Victoria; he came to WA with his family in the mid-1890s and lived in Claremont. Reg Walters studied art and drawing at Perth Technical School from around 1905 and in 1908 began a five-year apprenticeship with his uncle Frank's firm, Meston & Walters. After completing his apprenticeship, he became a signwriter and served with the Western Australian 10th Light Horse Regiment (LHR) as a regimental artist. The collection consists of photographs, a diary and memorial design.

Interview with Dr Sumit Sinha-Roy in 2021

Interviewed by Julia Wallis.

Dr Sinha-Roy is the Deputy Director of Clinical Services at Royal Perth Hospital and has had a key role in assisting in COVID-19 operations. This interview is part of a joint project with the Royal Perth Hospital Museum to record interviewees talking about their experience working at the state's longest serving, major trauma and teaching hospital.

Herbert Frank Charles 'Bert' Turner's WWI diaries

Herbert Frank Charles 'Bert' Turner (1894-1969) was born in West Melbourne and grew up in Maylands. He entered Blackboy Hill Camp for training in 1915, was assigned to the 5th Reinforcements to the 11th Battalion. Bert chronicled his daily life during the Great War; from Fremantle with the 11th Battalion in 1915, to France with the 51st in 1916, and the 4th Division Signals Company in 1918. He witnessed the taking of Leane's Trench at Gallipoli, and the Battles of Messines and the Somme on the Western Front. His meticulous diaries are an extraordinary insight into Bert's experiences of War.

Nic Duncan collection of photographs

Nic Duncan lives in Denmark, WA. She is an accredited member of the Australian Institute of Professional Photographers, and a multi award-winning wedding and portrait photographer. She was the 2015 AIPP WA Professional Portrait Photographer of the Year, a finalist in the 2017 National Photographic Portrait Prize, and has been a double finalist in the last three Fremantle International Portrait Prizes. This collection of photographs features the WA towns Leonora and Kookynie.

Arthur Joseph Burgess Papers

Arthur Joseph Burgess migrated from England to Perth, Australia in 1902. His initial career was in the British merchant navy and then Royal Navy. He settled in Perth and married Mabyn Edith Crowe in 1902 and was employed by the *Sunday Times* from 1909-1935. He was a keen photographer and a founding committee member of the Western Australia Camera Club. This collection includes his apprenticeship papers from AJ Willis and Son, three letters from Prince Louis of Battenburg (he was captain of the HMS *Majestic* during AJ Burgess's posting), papers relating to his maritime career with the merchant and Royal Navy, passport and estate papers.

Nigel Crawford papers

As a young married couple, Nigel (1897-1961) and wife Lily Delamere (nee Hammond) Crawford (1900-1990) moved from Sydney to Perth to open a branch of Perdreau Rubber. They established their family, business and social life during several years in Perth before moving to Melbourne. Nigel was very active in the Freemasons fraternity; this collection includes a number of certificates and documents relating to the Grand Lodge of WA.

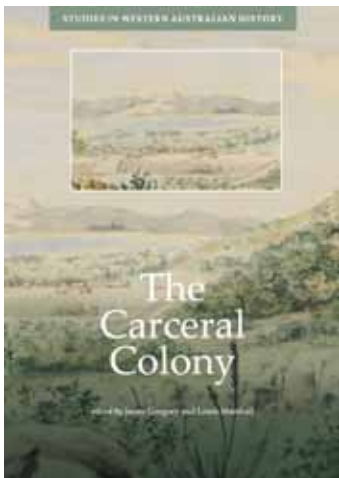


State Records Office - News from the Archives

Voices of the Archives

The third in our new series of podcasts called 'Voices from the Archives' was published on the SRO website on 3 February. In this episode, producer Sarah Tout talks to Dr Bolleter – a landscape architect and academic – uncovering stories of the city's foreshore that reveal alternate realities of what might have been built but never materialised. Dr Bolleter won the Margaret Medcalf Award 2016 with his book, *Take Me to the River: the Story of Perth's Foreshore*, and this podcast highlights that without archives, 'we have to painfully re-learn the lessons of previous generations'.

Margaret Medcalf Award 2021



Congratulations to contributing authors of the 'The Carceral Colony', an edition of *Studies in Western Australian History* produced by the Centre for Western Australian History at the University of WA. Emeritus Professor Jenny Gregory accepted the Award on behalf of contributors at a ceremony on 19 November 2021. The publication draws heavily on archival sources, much of which is held as State Archives by the State Records Office, and is a very significant and comprehensive collection of research papers that help us to think more broadly and better understand

the connections between all people impacted by the penal system in colonial WA.

Geoffrey Bolton Lecture 2021: Yarning Ancestors Words

On the second anniversary of the Tandanya Declaration on 25 October 2021, the SRO launched the Geoffrey Bolton Lecture: Yarning Ancestors Words as a new podcast – available for download from the SRO website. The Declaration calls on us ‘to re-imagine the meaning of archives as an engaging model of social memory; to embrace Indigenous worldviews and methods of creating, sharing and preserving valued knowledge. To decolonise our archival principles with Indigenous knowledge methods, to open the meaning of public archives to Indigenous interpretations’. This special podcast was produced by Sarah Tout and features researchers: Darryl Kickett, Gabriel Maddock, Anna Haebich and Dean Collard.

New to the SRO State Archives Collection Catalogue

The following collections have recently been described and added to the online catalogue:

- Consignment 7674 North Fremantle Municipality building plans. 101 plans ranging from new motor car garages to the Rose Hotel and including many of the fuel company installations and other industrial sites, 1920s and 1930s.
- Consignment 7671 – a collection of ten specimen railway tickets from the Government Printing Office including free cloakroom tickets for Bunbury and Kalgoorlie, and some Royal Show tickets. Undated.
- Consignment 7672 – a volume of greeting cards printed by Government Printing Office used as specimen Christmas cards for the Governor of W.A., Premier, Ministers, Parliament, Departments and Agencies, 1954 – 1972.
- Consignment 7666 Wooroloo Cemetery Board receipt books (for payment of burial plots and services) and twelve telegrams recording deaths at the Sanatorium, 1923 – 1940.

SRO volunteers are listing Consignment 3404 divorce files from 1865 onwards and they are now being added to the catalogue. This is a large ongoing project but already we are seeing requests for items in the catalogue. Until it is completed, the registers on microfilm in the Battye Library at Consignment 3409 will still be in demand.

Volunteers and staff are also working on describing Consignment 3580, a large collection of civil court case files from 1889 to the 1940s. While many early years were imported into the catalogue seven years ago, the detailed listing is still ongoing with catalogue records for 1899 recently completed and 1900 underway. While most of these cases are for monies owed, there are many with very interesting content. An example is 1899/S050 – compensation for injury to Johann Heinrich Carl Ludwig Schumann while in employ of The Adelaide Steam Ship Company on a coal hulk in Albany 16/9/1898. He was injured when catapulted off a tramline on the hulk – and this has prompted an SRO staff member to privately research coal hulk tramways and an article has been submitted to the national *Light railways* magazine. Other Cons 3580 cases relate to probate matters and land issues, and there are many relating to ‘Afghan’ cameleers, hotel keepers, and other business people.

Our researchers will be aware of the typed AN listings for archive collections, a set being available in the Battye Library on the third floor. While many ANs have been superseded by online catalogue entries, there are still collections to be listed and imported into the catalogue. We are working through local government and a recent collection that has been completed is the Shire of Bridgetown and its predecessors Nelson and Greenbushes Road Boards.

Correspondence files at S2030, Cons1317 have been more fully described and proved a very interesting collection. Examples are 1930/270 a proposed air carnival for Western Air Services to launch the company’s Air Taxi Service; 1931/396 request to form a fox club in Sunnyside; 1931/377 bonuses on dingo scalps. The discovery of a large 1940s poster promoting diphtheria immunisation in Cons1317 024 resulted in an SRO Facebook post and some interesting comments from the public.



State Records Office Newsletter and Socials

The State Records Office's online newsletter is published every quarter. You can subscribe to the newsletter via the SRO's new web site.

We've also been continuing to tell our stories on Facebook and Twitter and we encourage readers to follow the SRO for interesting stories every week. The link to the facebook (now renamed Meta) is <https://www.facebook.com/StateRecordsOfficeWA>. It is certainly worth browsing the site to discover interesting stories revealed by the records held in the State Archives collection which are regular features.

State Records Office on the airwaves

The State Records Office and State Library are continuing a regular chat on ABC 720 Perth called 'History Repeated'. Tune in Friday afternoons and look out for online stories on the ABC Perth Radio web site. The SRO and State Library are also sharing a regular chat with Harvey Deegan on 6PR on Sunday evenings 'Remember When' – taking it in turns every fortnight (once a month each for the SRO and State Library) with a new story from the archives. You can also catch-up on these stories via our web site at Stories from the Archives.



Friends of Battye Library (Inc) Subscriptions form
From 1 July to 30 June each year

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$500

Annual Membership

Ordinary	\$25
Joint	\$35
Concession (pensioner / full time student)	\$15
Corporate	\$50
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If paying by electronic direct funds transfer, our details are:

BSB Number – 016-185
Account Name – Friends of Battye Library (Inc)
Account Number – 4220 58413

In the reference section, please use your initial and surname as well as 'subs' or 'donation' to ensure that your payment can be identified.

We need a completed form for our records, so please return it either by post or as an attachment to an email to ***membership@friendsofbattyelibrary.org.au*** with your online receipt number.

Thank you for your interest in the Friends of Battye Library, it is much appreciated.

Afterwords

John Blundell – book-keeper, painter, editor, doctor

I love topographical paintings, pre-camera paintings done by water-colourists who faithfully record all the buildings, streets and other features of places. I have just been reminded of another such artist.

Back in November 2015 (issue 154) I wrote about the *Swan River News*, a monthly newspaper published in London from 1844-47 to publicise our struggling colony. I mentioned that it was revived in January 1849, under a new editor in JWF Blundell, with the object of attracting a labour supply for the colony, closing again in December that year when it became known that the first batch of convicts was about to be despatched.

Blundell was by then just a name to me. I had clearly forgotten that he once lived here – even though the June 2007 newsletter (Issue 124) had told me this. That issue carried a report of the Battye Library's acquisition of 22 of his watercolours and some family papers (see Battye Library, MN 2568, Blundell papers, ACC 6868A, SLWA). But only a mention of the *Swan River News* attracted the attention of my 2B pencil.

John Wilton Frankland Blundell was born in Islington, London on 22 December 1820, son of Dr Thomas and Elizabeth Blundell. At the age of 22 he signed a contract to move to Swan River as book-keeper and general clerk to Frederick Mangles & Co. who had established a mercantile house here in June 1841.

He arrived on the barque *Ganges* in January 1844 and in the next four years he travelled around the Avon Valley and the Canning and Serpentine districts, taking his sketchbook with him.



Jennie and Bevan Carter published three of his paintings in their book *Settlement to City*, a history of the Armadale District, including the one shown, a painting of a shaft at the Kelmscott copper mine.

Like his contemporary, Lieutenant Richard Ffarrington of the 51st Regiment, Blundell took an interest in

Aboriginal life, his album including 'Encampment of natives, Swan River, prior to a corroboree'.

Another painting of historic importance is his 'Vincent's house, landing place on beach, Rottnest Island'. This includes depictions of the first salt store and (on the right) the first boat house, built for the pilot service in 1846. The painting is noteworthy because there is no evidence of the military barracks which



are generally believed to have been built before the first boathouse was. It also shows that the massive sea wall is not yet complete.

Blundell returned to England in 1848 but he hadn't finished with us. In January 1849, as editor, aged 28, he produced the first of his twelve issues of the *Swan River News*. He also set himself up as a General Agent, advertising from May in WA newspapers seeking support of the colonists of Western Australia. He gave his address as either his office in Lombard Street, London or the Jerusalem Coffee House. During the year he also published several descriptive articles about Western Australia in the *New Monthly Magazine and Humorist*.

Blundell was a man of many accomplishments – what he was really doing in 1849 was following in his father's footsteps, studying at St Bartholemew's Hospital in London to be a doctor. He qualified in 1851, practised medicine in Kent, married in 1855 and migrated to Australia in 1870 with his wife Eliza and seven children. He practised in South Brisbane – and was also a leader writer for Brisbane newspapers. He died in 1883 and is buried in Southport cemetery.

A descendent found his 22 paintings in her father's desk in 1990 and passed them on to a great grandson. They were bought for the Library at a Sotheby's auction in May 2007 for \$96,000. All or most of them will appear in Philippa O'Brien's forthcoming book on early WA art. Watch out for it.

Steve Errington

Objectives

The objectives of the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) are to assist and promote the interests of the JS Battye Library of West Australian History and the State Records Office, and of those activities of the Library Board of Western Australia concerned with the acquisition, preservation and use of archival and documentary materials.

Patron Mrs Ruth Reid AM

Committee (2020-2021)

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Treasurer	Nick Drew
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Ex-Officio Margaret Allen (CEO & State Librarian)
Damian Shepherd (CEO State Records Office)
Kate Gregory (Battye Historian)

Newsletter editor Jennie Carter

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volunteers@slwa.wa.gov.au

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The Secretary, PO Box 216, Northbridge WA 6865.

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Views expressed in this *Newsletter* are not necessarily those of the Friends of Battye Library Committee, the State Library of Western Australia, or the State Records Office.

Membership Subscription (from 1 July to 30 June - GST inclusive)

Life membership \$500

Annual membership

Ordinary \$25

Joint \$35

Pensioner / student / junior \$15

Corporate \$50

Meetings

General meetings are held each year in March, May, July, September (the Annual General Meeting), and November (also the end of year function). They are held at the State Library of Western Australia and usually begin at 5.00 pm for 5.30 pm and conclude before 7.00 pm, except for the November function which finishes around 8.00pm.

Newsletter

Three issues will be published each year in March, July, and November (flyers will be sent out in May and September). Articles from members and supporters are very welcome and the deadline for copy for the newsletter is 5 February, 5 June, and 10 October. The editor reserves the right to accept or reject articles and notices for publication.

Contact details

Friends of Battye Library website:

<http://www.friendsofbattyelibrary.org.au>

For comments, more information, membership forms, a copy of the Friends of Battye Library (Inc) Constitution, or to send articles and notices for the newsletter, please contact:

The editor, Jennie Carter at *bevnjen@gmail.com*

or write to:

The President
Friends of Battye Library (Inc)
P O Box 216
Northbridge WA 6865

J S Battye Library of West Australian History

Opening hours Mon/Thurs 9.00 am - 8.00 pm
 Friday 9.00 am - 5.30 pm
 Sat/Sun 10.00 am - 5.30 pm
 Public holidays - closed

Retrievals Every half hour during opening hours.

Telephone enquiries (08) 9427 3291 Website www.slwa.wa.gov.au
Email: info@slwa.wa.gov.au

Specialist staff: Dr Kate Gregory (Battye Historian)
 Mr John Hughes (Team Leader Senior Subject Specialist)

State Records Office

The SRO Search Room has co-located to the Battye Library, third floor of the State Library, Alexander Library Building. To access these materials in the Leah Cohen Reading Room a Researcher's Ticket will still be required.

Retrievals

As per usual times for SRO retrievals.

Telephone (08) 9427 3600, website www.sro.wa.gov.au, email: sro@sro.wa.gov.au.

The Genealogy Centre

Opening hours- The hours that the Genealogy Centre will be accessible will remain the same as Battye Library opening hours on the third floor.

Volunteers from Family History Western Australia, formerly the WA Genealogical Society (WAGS), are available to assist researchers on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm.

Specialist staff for Family History: for Family History information call Tuesday to Thursday on 08 9427 3247 or email info@slwa.wa.gov.au.