

FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETIES INC

G.P.O. Box 1440, Canberra ACT 2601

Website: www.history.org.au

E-BULLETIN No. 39 – 22 July 2008

DIGITAL ARCHIVES

There was a detailed article on the issues of digitization and cultural archives in the *Australian* on 2 July 2008 'A repository of our literary heritage' by Geordie Williamson at University of Sydney. It addresses the point of making cultural sources much more accessible in the major libraries. This is apparently already happening at an institutional level, particularly in university libraries in the USA. Digital Preservation regimes ingest files provided by academics which the academics deem to be worth preserving.

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,23953886-27702,00.htm>

(Source: aus-archivists-bounces@archivists.org.au 2 July 2008)

COPYRIGHT AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Museums Australia sells a publication for the historical societies, archives and museums sector on the topic of copyright and photographs. It is entitled, *Copyright and Cultural Institutions: Guidelines for Digitisation*. Details can be found at <http://www.museumsaustralia.org.au/site/page416.php>.

It is easy to read and with practical case studies. It begins with the underlying law and issues its use is quite wide. It addresses the special provisions in the Copyright Act for Libraries and Archives including copying for preservation, replacement and administrative purposes.

(Source: aus-archivists-bounces@archivists.org.au 8 July 2008)

COLLECTIONS COUNCIL SUBMISSIONS

Read the Collections Council's latest submissions

The Collections Council recently responded to the invitation to make submissions to the *Future Fellowships* scheme and *Excellence in Research for Australia*.

Following the Australian Government's announcement of *Future Fellowships*, a scheme which promotes research in areas of critical national importance, the Australian Research Council (ARC) called for submissions in response to its Consultation Paper outlining the proposed administrative arrangements. [Click HERE](#) to read the Collections Council's submission.

The Australian Government is planning *Excellence in Research for Australia* (ERA) as a new initiative which will be developed by the ARC. The ARC released the ERA Consultation Paper for comment; [click HERE](#) to read the Collections Council's contribution.

(Source: Collections Council *E-Bulletin* No.27, 9 July 2008)

National Library puts spotlight on rare treasure

Writer David Malouf and actor Amanda Muggleton will bring to life the Canadian Government's gift to the National Library of the earliest surviving document printed in Australia.

To mark the acquisition of this priceless document, a 1796 theatre playbill, the National Library will hold a special event on Wednesday 25 June, open to the public.

The playbill advertises performances at the Theatre, Sydney, on Saturday 30 July, 1796. It was found in the collection of Library and Archives Canada and returned as a gift to the people of Australia by the Canadian Government in September last year.

Amanda Muggleton will perform a piece from the advertised play, *Jane Shore*, while David Malouf will talk about the colony of the time when the playbill was printed. Dr Gillian Russell, of the Australian National University, will discuss the history of early colonial theatre.

The playbill was printed in Sydney by convict George Hughes who operated Australia's first printing press which came out with the First Fleet. It is believed that First Fleet Marine Officer and later third Governor of the NSW colony, Philip Gidley King, took the playbill with him when he visited England in 1796.

The Director-General of the National Library, Jan Fullerton, described the playbill gift as "extraordinarily generous and highly significant to the people of Australia". "The playbill will have a special place alongside other key documents such as Cook's Endeavour Journal, William Bligh's notebook and Eddie Mabo's papers in our new Treasures Gallery due to open in 2010," Ms Fullerton said.

The Canadian High Commissioner, Michael Leir, said he was very proud of the role Canada had played in returning an item of such historical significance to the people of Australia. "Its repatriation is a reflection of Canada and Australia's common heritage and strong historical links," he said. "The playbill celebration marks another example of our enduring relationship which continues to bring our two countries closer together."

High-resolution images of the playbill are available for download at <http://www.nla.gov.au/media/>

Media contacts:

Sally Hopman, 02 6262 1704; shopman@nla.gov.au

Ellen Peterson, 02 6262 1571; epeterson@nla.gov.au

(Source: ICOMOS Email News No.341, 26 June 2008)

Heritage Tourism in Australia - A Guide for Historical Societies by Dianne Snowden now available online

In May 2008 the Federation of Australian Historical Societies (FAHS) published its most recent guide for members of Australian historical societies. Unlike previous guides, this 'book' has been published exclusively on the web and is available to everyone free of charge.

It is *Heritage Tourism in Australia: a guide for historical societies*. It is available on the FAHS website <http://www.history.org.au>.

(The FAHS's note promoting the guide was produced in full in the Email News.)

(Source: ICOMOS Email News No.340, 26 June 2008)

Link to Heritage South Australia's Enews

To view the July 2008 issue of Heritage South Australia's E-newsletter, visit http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/latest_e_news.html.

(Source: ICOMOS News Email news No.346, 18 July 2008)

~~~~~

### COLLECTIONS COUNCIL

The Collections Council has announced the launch of the test site for the **Collaborative Projects Showcase** and is calling for participants to contribute to the pilot phase of the Showcase.

They are interested in hearing from projects developed in collaboration between different types of collecting organisations (e.g. a gallery and an historical society; a museum and a library; etc). For more information visit

<http://www.collectionscouncil.com.au/showcase+of+collaborative+projects.aspx>

Interests can be registered for collaborative projects to be promoted or for providing comments or suggestions for the content of the Showcase by sending an email to

[projects@collectionscouncil.com.au](mailto:projects@collectionscouncil.com.au).

(Source: Email from Collections Council 22 July 2008)