

Fryer Bulletin



June 2009

Welcome to the Fryer Bulletin. The purpose of this bulletin is to highlight significant events on the Fryer Library calendar and to let you know about library collections, resources and projects. The intention is to inform you, the researcher, about the richness of our collection and its potential for use. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if there is something you would like to know about Fryer's services or collections. I would be pleased to hear from you.

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Spotlight on Collections: Background and Details of Specific Collections That May Inspire Your Next Research Project

A Propertied History of Brisbane: the Cameron Bros Collection (UQFL450)

The estate agency and property management firm of Cameron Bros has been a feature of Brisbane's property market since the city's infancy. Accumulatively, probably no other firm can boast a more comprehensive portfolio of Brisbane properties or clients. From the CBD to the suburbs, from rentals to sales, Cameron Bros have been the realtors and trustees of choice for thousands of Brisbane property owners, big and small, for over 130 years. Indeed, such was their longevity and market prominence, the firm's history can be seen as a cipher for the city's development at large. Delving into the company's huge, leather-bound ledgers, a canny historian can trace the growth of Brisbane as both a geographic entity and as a city of private wealth in land and buildings. Along the way she/he might also stumble across the property holdings of some of Brisbane's leading citizens. Did you know, for example, that Queensland premier and businessman, Sir Thomas McIllwraith, owned houses and a shed in Adelaide Street?

Fortunately for the canny historian, twenty-eight of these ledgers have come into the care of Fryer Library. They include land sales books covering the years 1868 to 1939, each containing sales entries arranged by date with indexed details of seller, buyer and transaction. There is an estate book listing land sales by estate from 1913 to 1944, four volumes recording auction sales from 1924 to 1996 with advertisements and estate maps included, and five ledgers listing rental properties and tenants. There are three title deed books containing lists of conveyances, deed transfers and related matters. And to top it off, there are the legal papers of the Mayne siblings James and Mary, whose family and business affairs were the subject of Rosamond Siemon's controversial book, *The Mayne Inheritance*. For a propertied history of Brisbane, there are few better places to start.

Greek and Latin Rules, OK!: Notebooks of Trevers Drake (UQFL452)

When UQ was a building at the bottom of George Street and a capstone was a rock on the perimeter fence, Logic was all the rage and the Classics one of the coolest courses going, or so thought Trevers Kinnaird Drake. Fresh from Brisbane Girls' Grammar School, Trevers enrolled in a UQ Arts degree in 1917, immersing herself in Latin, Greek, English, Logic, and Ethics and Metaphysics. In 1919, her enthusiasm evidently undimmed, she commenced honours in Classics, and in 1920 she graduated with honours, second class. Her degree focussed on the literature of classical Greece and Rome, taking in Cicero, Pliny the Younger, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Herodotus, Thucydides, Horace and Tacitus, among others. It was a demanding program, with no Red Room

and everything resting on a single exam at year's end for each course. Trevers survived, and, fortunately, so did her notebooks. Almost 90 years after her graduation, eleven notebooks, mostly containing handwritten lecture and study notes, have surfaced and found a permanent home in Fryer Library. Historians of education in general and of UQ in particular, not to mention opportunistic undergrads in Classics, are sure to find plenty of fascinating gems in these carefully composed pages. It should be noted, though, that Trevers' intensity was not always what it could have been. In one lapse, her lucid notes on Tacitus trail off into doodles and a sketch of a young face, probably of a fellow student. At least some things haven't changed!

Research Help: Making Your Job Easier

Women in Politics and History: a Guide to Manuscript Sources in Fryer Library

<http://www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/women.html>

Fryer Library staff have recently created a list of manuscript collections which document or interpret the experiences, ideas and activities of women in Queensland history. Literary collections have generally been omitted, but otherwise the list aims to be inclusive. Women in the political arena are a particular focus, however the collections also document women's experiences in the professions, in waged employment and in private life. From the diaries of individuals to the records of prominent organisations, from the moral reformers and temperance advocates to the more radical expressions of first and second wave feminism, the list reflects the diversity of Fryer's manuscript sources in the broad field of women's studies. The entries range in size from single folders (designated by an 'F' call number) to multi-box collections (with 'UQFL' call numbers), and all are generally available for consultation in Fryer Library's reading room. This wealth of source material is complemented by the library's substantial holdings of books, journals and newspapers and its vast political ephemera collection, encompassing the innumerable campaigns and issues that have affected and mobilised women in Queensland, especially since the 1960s.

Publications

The latest issue of *Fryer Folios* has been produced with feature articles on the Thea Astley collection by Susan Sheridan and 'Gleanings from Australian Verse' by Penny Whiteway. 2008 Fryer Award recipient Katherine Barnes explores the genesis of David Malouf's *Johnno* and Paul Sherman remembers his old friend Val Vallis. Cathy Leutenegger also gives an account of the joint Fryer Library/ *Bibliography of Australian Literature* dinner at Customs House in November of 2008 plus a lot more. If you haven't already received one, copies of *Fryer Folios* can be obtained from us and electronic copies of *Fryer Folios* are also available at http://www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/publications/ff4_1_2009.pdf

Events

Our events calendar has been full in 2009. In April, Fryer hosted the first of its 'Meet the Author' sessions with internationally successful authors and UQ PhD graduates Kate Morton and Kim Wilkins who gave valuable insights into the writing process in a freewheeling and highly entertaining session. In May, Professor Peter Spearritt led a curator's tour of the *Triumph in the Tropics* exhibition currently on display in The University of Queensland Art Museum. Later that month, noted Australian historian/art critic and public intellectual Humphrey McQueen launched his latest book, *Framework of Flesh*, on the history of the Builders Labourers' Federation, the research for which was based significantly on Fryer collections.

Mark Cryle has done a presentation entitled 'Out of the Fryer Treasure Chest' for a number of Probus Clubs and other community gatherings. The talk highlights Fryer's work and explores aspects of Australia's literary past through texts by Constance Petrie, William Lane, Banjo Paterson, George Witton and Steele Rudd.

Q150 Celebrations

The Queensland State Archives has launched an online exhibition for Q150 profiling the top 150 historical documents in the history of the state, available online at www.top150.org. Jeff Rickertt of Fryer Library worked closely with Murray Johnson, the consulting historian for the exhibition, identifying possible Fryer material for inclusion and supplying digital images of items chosen. Twelve Fryer items form part of the exhibition. Surprisingly, three of the items chosen come from Fryer Library's vertical files of rare ephemeral material, only recently added to the Library's online catalogue. The items included in the exhibition, with their exhibition numbers, are:

- 41) Fitzgerald Inquiry into Official Corruption (1987-89)
- 44) Sir Samuel Walker Griffith's Criminal Law Code (1899)
- 75) John Jardine Reports (1864) (F381)
- 78) Trades and Labour Council: Papers of William Lane's Cosme settlement in Paraguay (1894-1896)
- 92) George Essex Evans' Poetry Manuscripts
- 131) State elections 1932: 'My message to you as Leader of the Labor Party' authorised by William Forgan Smith
- 135) Flyers and bulletins produced by striking Mount Isa Miners (1964-65)
- 136) Speech delivered by Kath Walker (Oodgeroo Noonuccal), 5 Sept 1964
- 142) Neville Bonner's 'Statement in support of land rights' (FVF269, No. 01.4)
- 147) Collection of Flyers produced by the Civil Liberties Co-ordinating Committee (1977-78) (FVF134)
- 148) One Nation Poster and corflutes signed by Pauline Hanson
- 149) Flyers and bulletins relating to the police baton charge against anti-apartheid protesters during the 1971 Springbok Tour

Since September of 2009 Mark Cryle has been seconded from Fryer to a project entitled 'Queensland's Past Online', an online gateway digitising source material on Queensland history and government. The project is being coordinated jointly by the Library and the recently created Centre for the Government of Queensland and funded with state government Q150 money. Queensland State Archives, The State Library of Queensland, Queensland Museum, Queensland Parliamentary Library and the Supreme Court Library are also partners. It is one of a number of projects with which the centre is involved, including Queensland Places, Queensland Historical Atlas and an oral history and biographical research project recording interviews with prominent Queensland political figures.

Mark has been active in identifying suitable content for the gateway which will include the full text of out of print books on Queensland history, theses, government publications and other materials. The resource will be

available to members of the public. A Kirtas APT 2400 book scanner has been purchased to assist with the bulk digitisation. Much of the content has been selected and work has begun on the digitisation.

Fryer Library Award

The Fryer Library and the Faculty of Arts of The University of Queensland wish to announce that Dr Jane Hunt from the School of English, Media Studies and Art History at UQ is the recipient of the Fryer Library Award for 2009. Dr Hunt will commence her project, working on Fryer's extensive Daphne Mayo collection, in the second semester of 2009. The Daphne Mayo collection consists of 98 boxes of correspondence and other written records, as well as sculptures, artworks and photographs.

On the Horizon

20-22 July – Fryer will be hosting the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand's 2009 conference 'The Limits of the Book'. The conference will examine the book as a precisely defined artefact and an elusive, conceptual 'work' or 'text'.

<http://www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/limits/>

21 July – Cyril Hopkins' *Marcus Clarke* edited by Laurie Hergenhan, Ken Stewart and Michael Wilding will be launched in Fryer. This biography was written a century ago by the brother of Gerard Manley Hopkins and is now published for the first time by Australian Scholarly Publishing. Emeritus Professor Laurie Hergenhan is a long time associate of Fryer.

14 August – Dr Juliet Flesch from the School of Historical Studies at Melbourne University will discuss her book *From Australia with Love: a History of Modern Australian Popular Romance Novels* and the Australian romance fiction collection at Fryer on which it is based.

Daphne Mayo Online Exhibition

In second semester Fryer will launch an online exhibition on the career and work of noted Queensland artist Daphne Mayo. The exhibition will be based on visual and textual material from Fryer's extensive collection of Mayo papers (UQFL119).

For updates on the latest news and events and more information about Fryer treasures check the web page <http://www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer>