

## **RETROSPECTIVE: A look back at the last 21 Special Collections exhibitions**

Special Collections is a rich source of information, supporting the research needs of staff and students of the University of Otago. Comprising the de Beer Collection, Brasch Collection, Shoultz Collection, Post-1800 Stack Collection, Hogg Collection, McGlashan Collection, Mellor Collection, and Pulp Fiction Collection, it is both the main and supplementary source of material for 4 exhibitions every year. *Retrospective: A look back at the last 21 Special Collections exhibitions* is an 'exhibition of exhibitions', revisiting those held since 2002. *Retrospective* represents 6 years of exhibitions and highlights the wonderful range of material held in Special Collections. While most of the exhibitions were curated by the Special Collections Librarian, some had guest curators. Many exhibitions have stood alone, some have coincided with symposiums and community events, and at least one has travelled - all have been digitized and are available on the Special Collections exhibitions webpage <http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/SpecialCollections/exhibitions.html>

The saying 'it takes a village to raise a child' is true for creating Special Collections exhibitions – many people are involved including individuals from Special Collections, Reference Department, Custodians, Bindery, Library Administration, Marketing and Communications, and the Web Office. With their continued involvement, the next 21 exhibitions will be, without a doubt, every bit as interesting, engaging, and visually spectacular as the last.

This exhibition *Retrospective: A look back at the last 21 Special Collections exhibitions* runs from 20<sup>th</sup> December 2007 until 1<sup>st</sup> February 2008.

---



### **Initials: In the Beginning...**

17<sup>th</sup> October 2007 – 14<sup>th</sup> December 2007

Highlights the Western European tradition of decorative initials, from early illuminated manuscripts to modern press productions. Included on display are examples of historiated, inhabited, arabesque, puzzle, and passe-partout initials from France, England, Germany, and Italy...

[under construction]

---



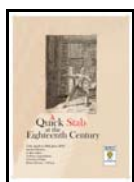
### **Linnaeus, Prince of Botanists: His Works and Legacy**

6<sup>th</sup> July 2007 – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2007

2007 marks the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778), a notable Swedish botanist, zoologist, and physician. He developed a standardized binomial system of classification. Works in this exhibition include an English version of Linnaeus's *Systema Naturae* (1806)...

<http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/linnaeus/index.html>

---



### **A Quick Stab at the Eighteenth Century**

11<sup>th</sup> April 2007 – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2007

*A Quick Stab at the Eighteenth Century* is just that, an exhibition that provides a brief overview of a rich century. The exhibition focuses on key aspects such as philosophy, religion, music, literature and science. A vast majority of the book and manuscripts are from Dr Esmond de Beer's Collection...

<http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/18thc/index.html>

---



### **Master of the Burin: The Book Illustrations of John Buckland Wright, 1897-1954**

12<sup>th</sup> December 2006 – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2007

"This exhibition is a wonderful opportunity for JBW's compatriots to view a comprehensive retrospective collection of one of the greatest book illustrators of the 1930's and 1940's" (Christopher Buckland Wright, November 2006)...

<http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/jbw/index.html>

---



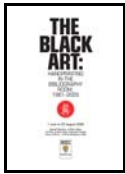
### **In the Flesh: The Monroe Dynasty 1720-1846**

4<sup>th</sup> September 2006 – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2006

The exhibition affords a glimpse into the development of the thoughts and knowledge of these men, who influenced or who offended them, and how their knowledge was transferred, disseminated and appropriated...

<http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/monro/index.html>

---



### **The Black Art: Hand-printing in the Bibliography Room, 1961-2005**

1<sup>st</sup> June 2006 – 25<sup>th</sup> August 2006

The Bibliography Room, a workshop-cum-museum dedicated to keeping alive the printing technologies of the past, has a forty-five year history. This exhibition not only celebrates the printing outputs from 1961 to 2005, in all their infinite variety, but also acknowledges the work done by Dr Maslen and his colleagues...

<http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/blackarts/index.html>

---



### **West Meets East: Images of China and Japan, 1570 to 1920**

10<sup>th</sup> February 2006 – 26<sup>th</sup> May 2006

The West's convergence with the East was gradual. During early visits, European travelers found there were many things to observe and learn. This exhibition presents a selected number of written and photographic accounts by European travelers to China and Japan...

[http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/west\\_east/index.html](http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/west_east/index.html)

---



### **Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass: A Celebration of an American Poem**

17<sup>th</sup> October 2005 – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2006

Walt Whitman (1819-1892), arguably America's most important poet, delivered the first edition of *Leaves of Grass* to the world in 1855. 2005 is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the appearance of Whitman's most famous poem. This exhibition celebrates his work...

[http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/walt\\_whitman/index.html](http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/walt_whitman/index.html)

---



### **The Word on Modernism: How Books Aided a Revolution in Design**

11<sup>th</sup> July 2005 – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2005

The exhibition follows the path of the modern family house through architectural publications between 1925 and 1965. The selection shows how modernist architecture was promoted through firm but gentle instruction...



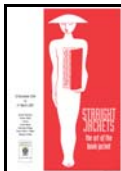
### **"£100 & a butt of sack yearly": The Office of the Poet Laureate**

11<sup>th</sup> April 2005 – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2005

This exhibition offers a historic overview of the post, beginning with John Dryden and ending with Andrew Motion, the current laureate. The pension for a poet laureate was originally stipulated at £100 and a butt of sack (108 gallons of sweet wine) yearly...

[http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/poet\\_laureate/index.html](http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/poet_laureate/index.html)

---



### **Straight Jackets: The Art of the Book Jacket**

20<sup>th</sup> December 2004 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005

This exhibition offers an overview of the early history of the book jacket. It also highlights the design and artistic aspects of book jacket production, and importantly, raises the viewer's consciousness on what is now considered an integral component of the book...

[http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/book\\_jackets/index.html](http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/book_jackets/index.html)

---



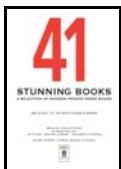
### **'A Civilising Mission': New Zealanders and the Rhodes Scholarship 1904 - 2004**

20<sup>th</sup> September 2004 – 10<sup>th</sup> December 2004

This exhibition marks the centenary of the Rhodes scholarship in New Zealand, and makes the point that although grand utopian visions are seldom realised, investment in education will always pay off. *'A Civilising Mission'* introduces a representative group of New Zealand Rhodes scholars chosen from each of the decades since the Scholarship's inauguration...

[http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/rhodes\\_scholars/index.html](http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/rhodes_scholars/index.html)

---



### **41 Stunning Books: A Selection of Modern Private Press Books**

24<sup>th</sup> June 2004 – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2004

The private press books in this exhibition are all hand-crafted: printed on fine paper, bound individually, limited in issue number, and almost all contain fine illustrative matter, usually wood-cuts or engravings. The 41 examples on display...

<http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/41books/index.html>

---



### **Glimpses of London's Past**

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2004 – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2004

This exhibition offers a glimpse of London's past through a wide selection of books and manuscripts chosen from within Special Collections. Much of the materials are from Esmond de Beer's fine collection of 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century books; one is from the Medical Library, University of Otago...

<http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/london/index.html>

---



### **He tirohanga ki muri ~ A View of the Past**

25<sup>th</sup> November 2003 – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2004

This exhibition is an attempt to capture and convey a selection of Maori heritage materials from the Hocken Library, which not only speak of important events and relationships, but also acknowledge the mana, (prestige, dignity and authority) of our ancestors through the words and wisdom they have left behind...

[http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/he\\_tirohanga\\_ki\\_muri/index.html](http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/he_tirohanga_ki_muri/index.html)

---



### **Harmonizing My Starting Place: Charles Brasch, Patron, Poet and Collector**

4<sup>th</sup> July 2003 – 17<sup>th</sup> November 2003

This exhibition celebrates the life and legacy of Charles Orwell Brasch (1909-1973), the Dunedin-born man who formed much of New Zealand's artistic and literary tradition by his twenty-year editorship of Landfall, New Zealand's premier literary magazine. Brasch was also a patron of the arts, a poet and a writer...

[http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/charles\\_brasch/index.html](http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/charles_brasch/index.html)

---



### **Cultivating Gardens: Practical Garden Advice Through the Ages**

21<sup>st</sup> March 2003 – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2003

The exhibition traces the development of practical English gardening books from the late 16th century to the Victorian era, and follows developments in 19th and 20th century New Zealand, where new manuals were written for local conditions...

<http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/gardening/index.html>

---



### **Rare Delights: Recent Additions to Special Collections**

13<sup>th</sup> December 2002 – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2003

This exhibition features recent additions to Special Collection since 1998. The rare book collection in Special Collections, University of Otago Library, is by no means a static one. It continues to grow through purchase and donation. These books supplement the collection's strengths and also represent new and potential fields for additional collecting...

<http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/delights/index.html>

---



### **Unpacking Ruins: Architecture from Antiquity**

12<sup>th</sup> September 2002 – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2002

This exhibition of books and prints of the last four centuries traces changes in the way the West has related to the architecture of antiquity. Through text and illustrations the exhibition ponders how the material of the past has variously been unpacked and repackaged...

<http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/ruins/index.html>

---



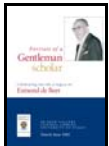
### **Enlarging the Prospects of Happiness: European Travel Writing Through the Ages**

21<sup>st</sup> June 2002 – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2002

This exhibition displays a selection of actual itineraries alongside invented accounts in order to discover what readers seek in their mental travels. Whether narrating pious pilgrimages, enlightenment voyages or exotic encounters, travel writing always aims to move readers (and to move books off the publisher's shelves)...

[http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/grand\\_tour/index.html](http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/grand_tour/index.html)

---



### **Portrait of a Gentleman Scholar: Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Esmond de Beer**

21<sup>st</sup> March 2002 – 13<sup>th</sup> June 2002

The epitome of the gentleman scholar, he devoted his life to scholarship independent of any academic institution. By celebrating the life and legacy of Esmond de Beer, we celebrate scholarship of the highest integrity and generous patronage which enriches our society...

<http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/de-beer/index.html>