

The David Roche Foundation House Museum



TDRF: Club Fermoy

Dear friends and supporters,

To celebrate Mother's Day in 2020 we are remembering David Roche's mum, Dorinda (née Thomas), who married John 'Jack' Roche in 1923. Growing up in Port Wakefield, her brother Jack nicknamed her 'Bop' and she kept the name throughout her life. She would have four girls and two boys of her own and together with Jack they introduced them to art, both here and abroad.

Bop also had a love of dogs, attending shows with David in the early days and later, she was part owner with David in two international show dogs. For many years she owned griffons bruxellois and David kept Bop's 1961 signed copy of griffons bruxellois written by Marjorie Cousens. Each Sydney Royal Easter Show, David would stay with her at Woollahra. Our mothers play an important role in shaping and supporting us - so this Sunday let's remember and celebrate their contribution.

Other features in Club Fermoy include Martyn's charming recollection of David's friendship with Dr. Schenberg in 'Today's Treasure' and a video that we made in 2019 examining Fabergé in the collection. You can also purchase something from our shop or buy gift vouchers online for your mum!

And finally, while we still have some beautiful late autumn weather in Adelaide, it's heartening to see David's Gold Bunny roses continuing to spot flower. They have a wonderful perfume and as we say 'gold' was, or should be, David's favourite colour.

Best wishes,
Robert Reason
Museum Director

TODAY'S TREASURE

Showcasing some of the most incredible pieces in David Roche's collection with thoughts from his friend, Martyn Cook. While our gallery is closed, we will be looking at pieces currently displayed in the *Flowers: Passion. Pain. Nation.* exhibition.



**Chelsea Porcelain Factory
(Britain c. 1745–1770), The
music lesson, c. 1765,
London, soft-paste porcelain,
polychrome enamel, gilt**

"Anybody on meeting Harold Schenberg was always astounded and overwhelmed by this extraordinary eccentric, who was a mixture of Mondrian abstract and outrageous folly. A friend in Sydney had told David all about Harold's porcelain collection and so David was exceptionally pleased to receive an invitation from Harold to view the collection. Upon meeting Harold, David was mesmerised, and had a marvellous time talking to him about porcelain.

Harold's collection of porcelain was extraordinary, and so after Harold's demise, when the collection went to auction, David was determined to buy quite a few things from it. David bought this piece because he wanted a signature of these monumental early works, full of colour and movement. This Chelsea porcelain group is a tour-de-force of wretched excess, as David called it, and here it is, The music lesson, though it seems more than that is happening.

After acquiring the piece, David was thrilled to visit the MET in New York, where he went up into the porcelain section, and found his figure there at the top of the staircase.

All of the items from Harold Schenberg went into either the Dining Room or the Yellow Drawing Room of Fermoy House."

- Martyn Cook 2018

[View in the online collection](#)

If you'd like to know more about The music lesson, we have further information on it on our social media channels, by Geoff, one of our guides at The David Roche Foundation House Museum. Click below to read!

[More information](#)

CANINE TIDBITS

Did you know...

David's mother, Dorinda, was also a great dog lover and co-owned two of David's champions: English and Australian champion Afghan Hound, Mazari of Carloway (imported from the UK), who went on to win at the three main Royal shows in Australia (Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide) in 1965, and Irish, English and Australian champion Kerry Blue, Granemore Kilfenora (imported from Ireland) in the early 1980s.





FROM THE ARCHIVES

Fascinating information and photos relating to David Roche, Fermoy House or the collection. This week, in honour of Mother's Day, we have two photographs of David Roche with his beloved mother, Dorinda (1904-1986).

Above is a photograph of David and Dorinda arriving at the wedding of David's eldest sister, Diana, to Dr. Tom Frost at Edgecliff in Sydney on Wednesday 20 October 1948. The link below includes an article from Sydney's Daily Telegraph newspaper from Thursday 21 October 1948 entitled 'Life in Sydney' about the wedding.

The photograph at the top of the newsletter shows David and Dorinda with a friend (as well as two German Shepherds) in the mid-1950s.

[Read article](#)

SHOP FOR MOTHER'S DAY

It's almost here! That's right, Mother's Day is just around the corner, and if you're wondering what to get your mum to make her special day particularly memorable this year, look no further! The David Roche Foundation House Museum has a fine selection of fantastic items on sale to suit every mother: silk scarves, notebooks, tea towels and tote bags. Get them now - she'll love you even more!

Just call us on **(08) 8267 3677** or email us at info@rochefoundation.org.au (with your contact details) and place your order (Adelaide only), and arrange a time for pickup before it's too late!



Worcester scarf
\$50



Derby scarf
\$50



NOTEBOOKS

\$7



Tote bags
\$20



Tea towels
\$20

Order by phone: +61 8 8267 3677
or email: info@rochefoundation.org.au

MULTIMEDIA



An Introduction to Fabergé at Fermoy House

Love fine jewellery? How about Fabergé?

Then click above to watch Martyn Cook talk about David Roche's Fabergé collection in this video from early 2019 that was shown as part of our *Triumph & Tragedy: Catherine, the Romanovs & Fabergé* exhibition.

DIGITAL COLLECTION

Did you know that many of the items in The David Roche Collection are available online? Find your favourite piece or discover something new. Click the button below.



We have recently added another 24 ceramic items to the online collection including a rare canary yellow bucolic group, an equestrian model of a general in full military uniform and a prattware figure of St George slaying the dragon.

[View the new additions](#)

[View the collection](#)



FOLLOW TDRF

We are on Facebook and Instagram! We provide regular content through our social media channels. Follow us now to keep in the loop!

Over the last few weeks, we have been posting on our social media channels about pieces newly acquired for The David Roche Collection, including a magnificent Russian Easter egg by Wedgwood, two series of Napoleonic miniatures, a bronze plaque of Antinous, and most recently, two pieces that have come into the collection through our association with the South Australian Living Artist (SALA) festival.

Click one of the buttons below to head over and have a look!



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Instagram

LINKS WE LOVE

Although the Art Gallery of Western Australia is currently closed, you can still do a

virtual tour of their current Tom Malone Art Prize 2020 exhibition, and view some amazing contemporary glass (including several by South Australian artists):

<https://artgallery.wa.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions/tom-malone-prize-2020>

For all you classical music lovers out there, the Elder Conservatorium of Music at the University of Adelaide has been continuing to produce online concerts for your auditory pleasure, this edition featuring Lucy Stoddart (soprano) accompanied by Jamie Cock (piano):

<https://arts.adelaide.edu.au/music/engage/concert-series>



**The David Roche Foundation
House Museum
241 Melbourne Street
North Adelaide 5006**

T: +61 8 8267 3677

E: info@rochefoundation.org.au

W: www.rochefoundation.com.au



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