

The David Roche Foundation House Museum



Nora Heysen (Australia 1911–2003), *Spring Flowers*, c.1956, Sydney, oil on canvas on board, 44.0 x 36.5 cm (sight). South Australian Government Grant 1956, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide. 0.1655

Exhibited in Flowers: Passion. Pain. Nation. @ TDRF

TDRF: Club Fermoy #3

Dear friends and supporters,

On 18 May each year many thousands of museums promote International Museum Day and in 2020 the theme is 'Museums for Equality: Diversity and Inclusion'. In these unprecedented times we, like our museum colleagues, find ourselves in the unnatural situation of being closed due to COVID-19. I believe we have all come to appreciate how significant museum communities are in nurturing artists, audiences and the many people employed in the arts. This includes volunteers and I wish to especially thank TDRF's volunteers during National Volunteer Week. David Roche spent a lifetime visiting galleries and museums, honing his art appreciation and using that knowledge to inform his many acquisitions. In turn, he left his collection for us all to enjoy and we are working toward reopening our exhibition wing on Tuesday 9 June. We miss you all, and I look forward to bringing you further details in our next Club Fermoy.

Today's Treasure is one of my favourites, Francis Cotes' portrait of Margaret Rogers, which captures what must surely have been a fascinating woman. A Tyers by birth, her family were patrons of the arts and owners of the Spring Gardens, renamed Vauxhall Gardens, the leading outdoor venue for public entertainment in London in the 18th century - polite and disreputable. She would have met many of the leading singers and musicians of the day as well as Frederick, Prince of Wales, who also frequented the venue. Portraits of Margaret and her family hang in The Yale Centre for British Art, New Haven, the National Portrait Gallery, London, and right here in Adelaide.

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.

Francis Cotes (Britain 1726–1770), *Mrs George Rogers*, 1768, London, oil on canvas

"Never did David Roche think he would find a painting by the celebrated Francis Cotes in Ohio in the United States. This beautiful image of a well-dressed lady was of great interest to David; he thought her wonderful. To see her watering her

favourite lily with a beautiful silver gilt ewer meant a great deal. The provenance was discovered after David had acquired it. Before bringing it to Fermoy House, David first had it conserved, and was absolutely thrilled when it arrived in this marvellous frame, which is possibly by Thomas Chippendale.



The sitter's father was one of the first owners of the Vauxhall Gardens. At first, it was placed in David's drawing room, but thereafter it was moved about to suit David's desires. It's a painting that David always felt proud of owning - this is an artist he was fascinated by, and to buy it in Wooden Nickel Auctions in Ohio only made it more interesting."

- Martyn Cook 2018

[View in the online collection](#)

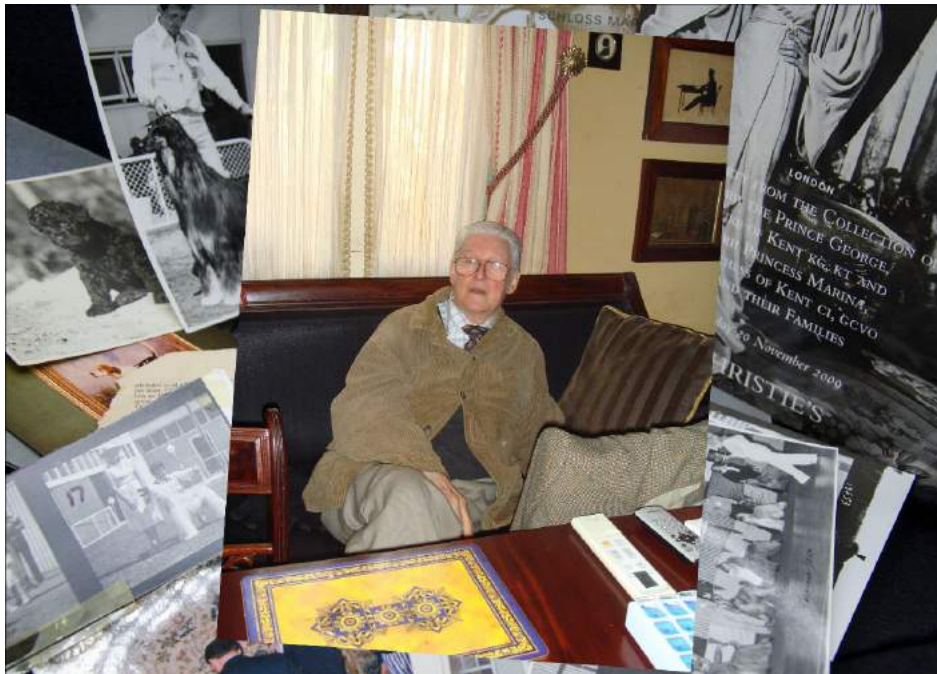


CANINE TIDBITS

Did you know...

David Roche received the Order of Australia posthumously as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours on 10 June 2013, just months after he passed away at the end of March 2013.

He was awarded this honour for 'significant service to the community', in particular for his benefactions to cultural institutions and for his contributions and donations to the canine community in South Australia.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Fascinating information and photos relating to David Roche, Fermoy House or the collection. This week, we are talking about one of David's favourite antique dealers, W.F. 'Bill' Bradshaw (1922-2009).

David Roche had a small number of favourite antiques dealers with whom he liked to do business. One of whom he was particularly fond was William Frederick Bradshaw, affectionately known as 'Bill'.

Bill had a shop in Queen Street, Woollahra, and when in Sydney, David always paid a visit to Bill's premises to have a cup of tea and look at the various pieces he had on display. According to Martyn Cook, each time David visited Bill, he spotted something else that he wanted. However, it often took a significant amount of time and convincing from David before Bill was willing to part with any of his items.

Ultimately, David acquired 14 items from Bill, including a pair of firescreens from the Marchioness of Harewood (TDRF 299), the Hendrik Hen barometer (TDRF 1052), a Regency chaise longue (TDRF 1692), a pair of gilt bronze candelabra by the famed French maker, Thomire (TDRF 2690) and, perhaps most importantly, the John Broadwood & Sons sofa table piano (TDRF 2421).

Apart from their business relationship, David and Bill remained close friends until Bill passed away at the end of 2009, aged 87.

SHOP

The David Roche Foundation Guidebook

The David Roche Foundation Guidebook presents a sweeping panorama of the magnificent interiors and European art collection that make up David Roche's residence 'Fermoy House' and adjoining gallery in North Adelaide. Discover the house room by room,

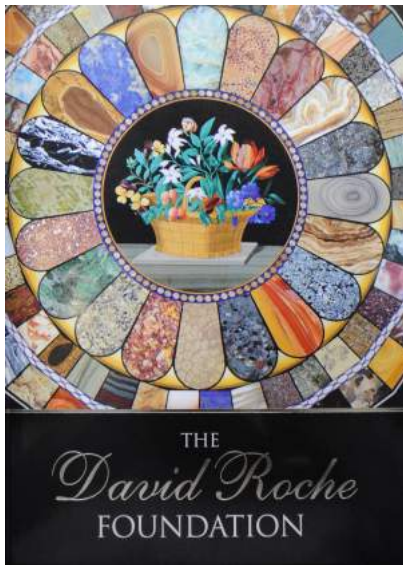
as well as some of the 3500 objects that make up the David Roche Collection.

Filled with beautiful and detailed photos and complete with an in-depth discussion by Museum Director, Robert Reason, as well as a foreword by inaugural Museum Director, Martyn Cook, this is a treasure not to be missed!

Softcover, 106 pages, printed 2019.

Get your copy now!

Preview the book



Just \$20

(plus postage and handling)

Order by phone: +61 8 8267 3677

or email: info@rochefoundation.org.au

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.

The work continues! We have recently added another 22 ceramic items to the online collection, including many of David's lustre ware jugs as well as more Staffordshire pieces, most notably the Macombo and the Lion figural group, a commemorative Duke of Wellington jug and a superb William



IV-era drabware teapot by the renowned Wedgwood Factory.

Click below to view the new additions!

[View the new additions](#)

[View the collection](#)

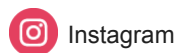


FOLLOW TDRF

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 two pieces that have come into the collection through our association with the South Australian Living Artist (SALA) festival, and celebrating International MuseumsDay 2020, which occurred yesterday, the 18th of May, and was focussed on Diversity and Inclusion.

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



LINKS WE LOVE

Want to know more about traditional and contemporary forms of craft from around the world? Visit <https://garlandmag.com/>

A wonderful site full of fascinating articles that are always worth a read is the late Carolyn McDowall's Culture Concept Circle, which remains online for continued access to the multiplicity of articles Carolyn wrote in her own unique voice across the fields of art, design, music, style and fashion:

<https://www.thecultureconcept.com/>

While the exhibition galleries of Adelaide's iconic Jam Factory are currently closed, their amazing shop is open and can be visited Monday to Saturday 10am-4pm, plus you can also view articles about their exhibitions on their Marmalade website.

For more information about their shop and opening hours visit:

<https://www.jamfactory.com.au/>

Or for Marmalade go to:

<https://www.jamfactory.com.au/marmalade/tag/Exhibition+Insight>



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