

The David Roche Foundation House Museum



**Tours of Fermoy House have recommenced
Tuesday - Saturday. 10am, 12pm & 2pm.
Go to rochefoundation.com.au to book!**

TDRF: Club Fermoy #7

Dear friends and supporters,

Today we have reopened David's beloved Fermoy House for guided tours of five or less people to maintain appropriate social distancing and keep our staff and visitors safe. I

encourage you to book online for this unforgettable visual feast and when you arrive please follow the directions of our staff as there have been some changes to how we operate.

In this edition, there is a French focus with the celebration of Bastille Day and David's fascination with French royalty, the Revolution and of course Napoléon. From his earliest days of collecting, French antiques and objets d'art featured prominently and David was a regular visitor to Paris all his life. If David was still with us in 2018, he no-doubt would have been surprised and a little nervous when TDRF welcomed Prince François Murat de Chasseloup Laubat, descendent of Joachim Murat (1767-1815), King of Naples, (and husband to Napoleon's sister, Caroline) to the museum! A man of great charm, he enjoyed his visit before official duties took him to Murat Bay on the Eyre Peninsula.

We are also thrilled to be taking part in *Musée Extérieur*, a curated art trail in North Adelaide developed by the City of Adelaide in conjunction with the **Thomas Henry Museum in Cherbourg-en-Cotentin, France**. Our front garden wall has a marvellous life-size reproduction of Simon Vouet's *Allegory of Peace*, c.1645. Further details on the walking trail (which is open 14 July to 14 September), can be found in our 'Links we love' section.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason
Museum Director

TODAY'S TREASURE

Now showcasing the favourite pieces of our fantastic volunteers in The David Roche Collection. This edition with Geoff S. looks at the *Sleep of Endymion* by Anne-Louis Girodet.



Anne-Louis Girodet (France 1767-1824), *Sleep of Endymion*, c.1810, oil on canvas, 25.5 x 44.5cm

Our Favourite Pieces

The David Roche Foundation has a number of paintings by Anne-Louis Girodet (1767-1824) or from his school. The *Sleep of Endymion* (c.1810) is a small example of Girodet's best known masterpiece which is in the Musée du Louvre.

In the painting, Endymion the shepherd, the most beautiful mortal, is being visited at night by the goddess Diana in the form of a moonbeam. Her passage through the foliage is facilitated by Zephyr. The idealized nude is traditional in inspiration, but the moonlight and the mysterious, dreamlike atmosphere are hallmarks of an emerging sensibility.

The original, painted in Rome in 1791, and exhibited at the Paris Salon in 1793 to a mixed reception, saw Girodet, a pupil of Jacques-Louis David (1748-1825), separating himself from his master and foreshadowing romanticism. It shows the influence of Italian artists Antonio Canova and Correggio, and because Girodet's paintings were coldly sensuous and atmospheric, rather than spartan and heroic like David's, David disapproved. Later, the work would have the rare honour of being admired by the great romantic writers Chateaubriand, Balzac and Baudelaire.

Anthony Knight describes the TDRF painting as “. . . a superb small version of Girodet's most famous work, which given the number of differences from the finished work suggest that it is not a copy. Girodet made many small, studies both before and after completing his great masterwork.”

The painting was acquired by David Roche for his bedroom.



CANINE TIDBITS

Did you know...

Apart from The David Roche Foundation itself, another testament to David's love of dogs can be found on nothing less than the dog pavilion at the Royal Adelaide Showgrounds, which is known as the David Roche Pavilion.

This honour was presented to David Roche in 2008 by the Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of South Australia (Dog Section) in recognition of David's many years of involvement with and service to the South Australian canine community.

David would pay for vet bills for dogs whose owner's could not otherwise afford them, and always gave generous gifts to the dog society, including infrastructure for canine shows and numerous trophies and prizes, to not only ensure the ongoing survival of the organisation, but to see it thrive into the 21st century.



David Roche (in yellow jacket) being told that the dog pavilion at the Royal Adelaide Showgrounds will be named in his honour (13 September 2008).



FROM THE ARCHIVES

David Roche loved French antiques, so it is only appropriate that he loved to visit French antique dealers, for whether it was their shops in Paris, London or New York, he believed they were always sure to have some of the finest French pieces in the world. Amongst the

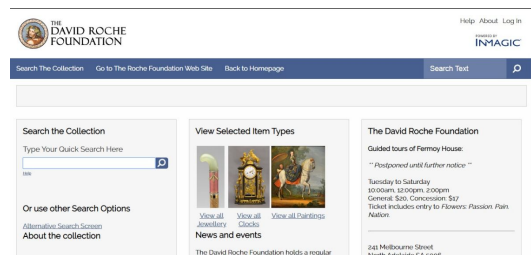
multitude of French antique dealers, two names stood out above the rest for David Roche - Didier Aaron and Steinitz. As such, when he began one of his regular European or North American antique 'tours', a visit to these inimitable dealers was always high on the agenda to see what wonderful items they had on offer.

Martyn Cook recalled once visiting the Didier Aaron store with David in London, where David saw a *"Régence sidetable on display in a window in St James' in the store of the famous French dealers, Didier Aaron ... David was thrilled to see such a beautiful Régence 1720s French side table, with its original marble top. He purchased it immediately, he thought it was perfect for the Yellow Drawing Room. He had been looking for a table of this type to place in one of the bay windows or against a long wall the drawing room."*

However, it was not only wonderful French pieces that David acquired from these dealers, he also found some exceptional pieces made in other parts of Europe. Indeed, it was from Steinitz that David acquired the glorious Dish light chandelier, with its incredible Bacchanalian figure, cut amethyst glass dish and tambourine-shaped corona. Martyn: *"This magnificent chandelier was first seen by David Roche at the Seacombe Park sale. He was outbid on that occasion, but found it years later at the famous Steinitz Antiques in New York. This superb Graeco-Roman circular chandelier with amethyst glass dish-light was simply a must have for David Roche for his bedroom ... It was a delight on a daily and evening basis for David, he adored it."*

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 Search button below.



The David Roche Collection has over 600 wonderful items from France. Although David's particular fancy was Napoleonic and First French Empire, his collection of French art begins with the c.1690 *Boulle striking table clock* attributed to Boucheret, with movement by Balthazar Martinot II, and includes paintings, clocks, porcelain, walking sticks and furniture made over the following centuries.

We have prepared a specially curated selection of highlights from the French section of The David Roche Collection, including amongst others: the *Boulle clock*; *Adam & Eve (Duc d'Orleans and Madame de Parabere)*, a satirical commentary on the Duc d'Orleans and his loose morals by Santerre; the ornate 1720s *Regence table* mentioned in From the Archives; the delicate portrait of *Desiree Clary* by Robert Lefevre; the beautiful gold and lacquer Chinoiserie *Secrétaire* and *Commode*, and a number of gorgeous pieces from David's fantastic porcelain collection from the major French factories, such as Sevres, Darte Freres, Nast and Pierre Neppel.

Click the **View Our Selection** button below to enjoy these wonderful pieces.

View Our Selection

SHOP

The David Roche Foundation shop has gone digital! Open for business with all 40+ items ready to be ordered. From books to mouse pads to pens, we've got something for everyone, and we can ship to anywhere in Australia, it's all just a few clicks away!



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LINKS WE LOVE

From 14 July to 14 September, the City of Adelaide is exhibiting the *Musée Extérieur* (Outdoor Museum), an art trail consisting of 10 full-size reproductions of works from the Thomas Henry Museum in Cherbourg-en-Cotentin, France, in the streets of North Adelaide. The David Roche Foundation is the second stop on the trail with Simon Vouet's (France 1590-1649) *Allegory of Peace* on the front wall of the Foundation. To view the whole trail, visit:

<https://explore.cityofadelaide.com.au/blog/musee-exterieur-outdoor-museum/>

Ever wondered what Bastille Day is actually all about? Today it is celebrated with fireworks, parades and parties, but that was not how it started. This article by History.com explains in detail the Revolutionary origins of the French holiday, what the Bastille was and what happened on the very first Bastille day:

<https://www.history.com/topics/france/bastille-day>



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