

The David Roche Foundation House Museum



War and Pieced: The Annette Gero Collection of Quilts from Military Fabrics

ON NOW!

TDRF: Club Fermoy #10

Dear friends and supporters,

It's been heartening to see the museum come back to life recently with so many visitors enjoying Fermoy House and the *War and Pieced* exhibition while we continue to carefully operate under our COVIDSafe plan. The Arts Industry has been hit hard, especially the performing arts, and your ongoing support across the sector means a great deal to the talented workers and artists who have found themselves in an unimagined future. I recently attended Natsuko Yoshimoto's farewell performance at the Adelaide Festival Centre and it was simply magical to once again experience live music!

In this edition, I'm thrilled to announce a project sometime in the making – the inaugural University of South Australia and the SIDA Foundation and TDRF Curatorial Research Fellowship in Interior Design and Decoration 2020-2022. The recipient, Dr Rochus Hinkel from the University of Melbourne, will be working with us on his exciting venture, *The Doppelgänger explorations on the original and the copy in the post-digital age*. I congratulate Dr Hinkel and look forward to him bringing his considerable skills to bear on TDRF.

I hope you enjoy our October newsletter with its articles on the collection, Martyn Cook's bequest and much more.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason
Museum Director

EXHIBITION



War and Pieced: The Annette Gero Collection of Quilts from Military Fabrics

Since opening 10 September, *War and Pieced* has delighted hundreds of visitors from quilting enthusiasts to military aficionados. Don't miss your only chance in South Australia to view Annette Gero's world-class collection of quilts from military fabrics. 55,000 people visited the original 2017 *Wartime Quilts* exhibition at the American Folk Art Museum in New York! And if you need some help wrapping your head around quilts, each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday you can join one of our guided tours at 11.15am. Free with your entry ticket.

Spanning the Napoleonic Wars, the Crimean War and the late 19th century British colonial wars in India and southern Africa through to World War One, Gero's quilts will surprise you in their use of vibrantly coloured fabrics, complex patterns and narrative scenes. This is less an exhibition about war, and more a celebration of the skills of regimental tailors in creating quilts that contain as many as 25,000 pieces of fabric.

Details: *War and Pieced*

Only at The David Roche Foundation House Museum

Until 19 December 2020

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 4pm

Exhibition ticket Adult \$10. Concession \$8. Children under 12 free.
No booking required. Please note we operate a COVIDSafe Plan.



FELLOWSHIP ANNOUNCED

The University of South Australia, along with The SIDA Foundation and The David Roche Foundation, are delighted to announce Dr Rochus Hinkel from the University of Melbourne as the recipient of the Curatorial Research Fellowship 2020/2022.

The University of South Australia and the SIDA Foundation and The David Roche Foundation Curatorial Research Fellowship in Interior Design and Decoration, valued at \$15,000, offers a unique opportunity for a practitioner or academic to explore new fields of knowledge across the allied professions of interior design, architecture and furniture and product design. Applications for the Fellowship were extremely competitive, with a diverse range of imaginative and original projects presented for consideration by a panel of judges comprising Professor Joanne Cys and Peter Walker from UniSA, Robert Reason, Museum Director, The David Roche Foundation and David Burton, Director, Williams Burton Leopardi.

Dr Hinkel's project, *The Doppelgänger Explorations on the Original and the Copy in the Post-Digital Age*, will explore opportunities digital technologies offer today in augmenting our relationship to art and design in general and how digital technologies trouble distinctions between the original and the copy in particular. Dr Hinkel is Associate Professor for Architecture and Design at the University of Melbourne and has taught across the fields of architecture, interior design and industrial design at institutions in Australia, Germany and Sweden. His research focuses on experimental explorations of interactive human environments.

For more information about Dr Hinkel, read his University of Melbourne research profile here:

<https://findanexpert.unimelb.edu.au/pr.../858210-rochus-hinkel>

TODAY'S TREASURE

Showcasing the favourite pieces of our fantastic guides and volunteers in The David Roche Collection. This edition with Ian S. looks at the stunning Blue John vase, one of a number of pieces made of this incredible and beautiful mineral that David Roche collected over the years.



Our Favourite Pieces

This stunning vase, currently housed in Mr Roche's bedroom, is made of a variety of Fluorspar, known as Blue John, which is the only indigenous material to England; mined in the central county of Derbyshire.

There are several theories about the origin of the name Blue John. The most common and widely accepted is that it is a corruption of the French, "bleu et jaune" meaning blue and yellow, which is quite strange considering the most predominant colour is purple; though it is important to note that in the mid-1850s, this colour was actually referred to as royal blue. While this theory has no written evidence in its support, nevertheless it does seem the most logical.

The vase in David's collection displays the wonderful distinctive wavy veins and colour of Blue John, the appearance of which is enhanced most brilliantly when a light source is introduced. The vase is mounted on an Ashford black marble base, a fine grained sedimentary rock that is also local to Derbyshire. Interestingly, it is not actually a true marble in geological terms. It was also used to cut and inlay with other decorative stones and minerals in the technique known as "pietra dura".

The David Roche Collection includes a number of other Blue John pieces including a fine *Wall Bracket* (inv. no. 2235) in David's bedroom, on which is a Wedgwood *Egyptian-style canopic vase* (inv. no. 2377); a small *Patch box* with ormolu decoration (inv. no. 2519) and a *Pair of columns* with Black Ashford Urns and base (inv. no. 1702).

The most wonderful collection of Blue John can be found Chatsworth House in Derbyshire, the ancestral home of the Duke of Devonshire, and which includes the most stunning Blue John window.

Ian S.
Guide
October 2020



CANINE TIDBITS

Did you know...

Among the many dogs who lived at Fermoy over the years, one of the most beloved was a cheeky little rough coated dog named Rufus.

Rufus was a Griffon Bruxellois, a breed with its origins in Belgium. Rufus originally belonged to Dorinda Roche, David's mother, who shared his passion for purebred dogs (indeed they co-owned an Afghan Hound and a Kerry Blue Terrier, both imported from the United Kingdom), and Griffons were a favourite breed for Mrs Roche. Little Rufus was her devoted companion and house dog, he could be quite mischievous at times and was known to occasionally run off with items of her clothing that she had laid out for the day.

When Mrs Roche left her home on Brougham Place and moved into residential housing care, Rufus came to live at Fermoy with David. He immediately endeared himself to the staff, and was given the task to be a companion yet again, though this time to one of David's favourite Kerry Blue Terriers, Liffey, in that dog's retirement. Rufus and Liffey remained close companions for the rest of their days at Fermoy.

It would be many years before another little Griffon would come to live at Fermoy House, when in 2016 Martyn Cook, a close friend of David and inaugural Museum Director of TDRF brought his Griffon, Miss Billie.



Schloss Marienburg, Lower Saxony, Germany

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Undoubtedly one of the most extraordinary house sales in living memory was Sotheby's House of Hanover sale at Schloss Marienburg that ran from 5-15 October 2005. The auction included some 20,000 antique items dating from the 16th to the 19th centuries, all of which had once belonged to the Hanoverian royal family. Unfortunately, as much as he wanted to attend, David Roche was not able to make it to the sale in person, so in his stead, he sent his trusted friend, Martyn Cook with a list of his desired items. As can be imagined, for this once in a lifetime sale, bidding was exceptionally fierce, and ultimately

Martyn was only able to acquire two items from David's list. However, these were both exceptional.

One is a magnificent portrait of *Queen Therese of Bavaria* (1792-1854), after her 1827 full-length coronation portrait by Joseph Karl Stieler (Germany 1781-1858), of the queen slightly turned, in a beautiful silk gown, resplendent in the most impressive crown, necklace, earrings and belt. It now sits above the fireplace in David's Drawing room.

The other is one of the highlights of David's collection - *Ernest Augustus of Hanover's clock* by French maker, Louis Moinet, also known as 'Gossip Clock'; sculpted in bronze in the form of a neoclassic vase flanked by ormolu female 'Gossip' figures, the whole embellished throughout with applied Graeco-Roman ormolu mounts attributed to Pierre Thomire. Ernest Augustus was the fifth son of George III, and younger brother to George IV. The clock itself was made for Ernest during the Napoleonic Wars, and it must have been a favourite of his as it followed him from England to Hanover when he became King there in 1837. According to Martyn, this piece was only acquired after an intense bidding war between himself and another interested party, which was ultimately only won because his opponent left the room for too long during the process to take a phone call. The clock is currently on display in the Russian room.

Apart from these two acquisitions for David Roche, Martyn also managed a single purchase for himself in the form of a fine paisley gown, said to have previously belonged to King George IV, which remained at The Foundation as a long term loan until 2020, when it entered the Collection as part of Martyn's bequest. Read below for more information.



ACQUISITION



Britain, *Dressing gown*, c.1815, wool, linen, silk. TDRF 3686.
On a marble bust of George IV by Samuel Joseph.

The Martyn Cook (1958–2019) Bequest 2020

In this edition, we are looking at another of the pieces from Martyn Cook's bequest - a exceptional wool, linen and silk dressing gown that once belonged to King George IV of Great Britain (1762-1830), who had previously served as Prince Regent during his father's incapacity. Acquired by Martyn at Sotheby's House of Hanover auction in 2005, this gown dates to the early 19th century, and has a striking paisley design with vertical stripes in reds, oranges, whites and blues, a high collar, and a single button and button holder with corded rope tie.

The attribution to George IV comes from a small card that came with the gown, which reads, 'Konigliches Familien-Museum. / No 35 / Schlafrock Konig Georg IV'. Presumably it was inherited by George's younger brother, Ernest Augustus (1771-1851), who became King of Hanover in 1837, and remained in the family collection until the 2005 auction.

The exceptionally wide waistline of the gown gives credence to it having once belonged to King George; who, in his latter years, became increasingly overweight and his waist increasingly wide. Indeed, George's girth was common

fodder for the cartoonists of the age (as seen below), and he was famously once likened to a "great sausage stuffed into the covering". It was said that for his coronation in 1820, his belt was so tight that he nearly fainted.



DIGITAL COLLECTION

THE DAVID ROCHE FOUNDATION

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About the collection

The David Roche Foundation was established in 1999 by the late Mr David J Roche AM (1930-2013) to be the recipient and custodian of the exceptional collection of antiques, paintings and objects of art accumulated by him over his lifetime and to be preserved for future generations.


View Selected Item Types



[View all Jewellery](#)



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News and events

The David Roche Foundation holds a regular monthly lecture series from February to November and a number of special events each year. Please return to the [website](#) for further information and join our mailing list to be kept informed.

Current exhibition

The David Roche Foundation

Guided tours of Fermoy House:

Tuesday to Saturday
10:00am, 12:00pm, 2:00pm
General: \$20, Concession: \$17

241 Melbourne Street
North Adelaide SA 5006
Limited parking available onsite

Contact us
Phone: +61 8 8267 3677
Email: info@rochefoundation.org.au

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.

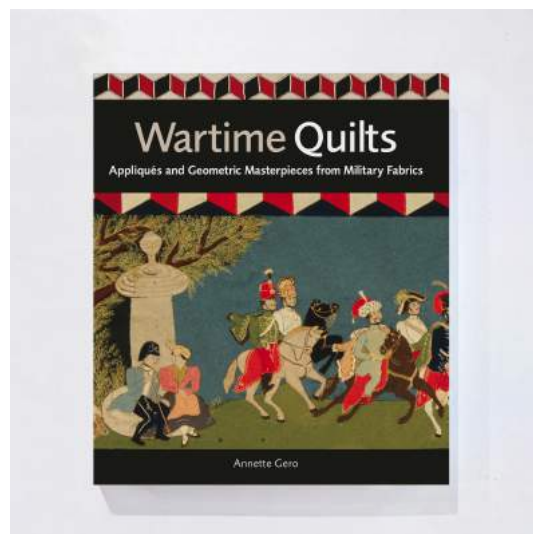
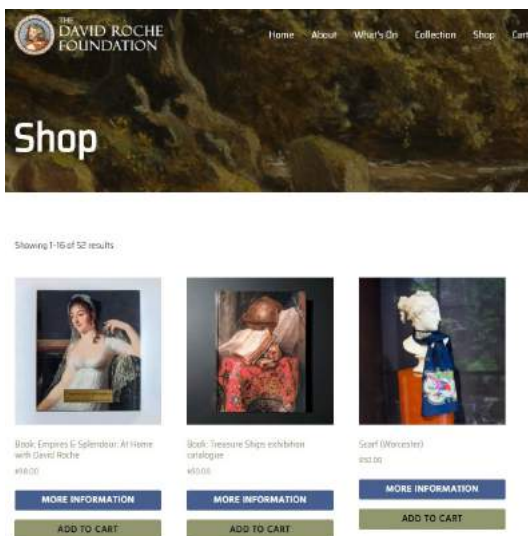
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SHOP

The David Roche Foundation shop is online. We are 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.

During the *War and Pieced* exhibition, we are offering Annette Gero's 2017 hardback publication *Wartime Quilts*, the catalogue published for the New York leg of the exhibition (when it was known as *Wartime Quilts*). Replete with beautiful, high quality photographs, in depth discussion of most of the quilts on display (plus many others in collections around the world), and an insightful history of the art of military quilting in general, it is a must have for lovers of quilts! Just \$89 (+P&H)

Get yours now!



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LINKS WE LOVE

For all you quilting enthusiasts out there, this 10 minute video looks at the incredible collection of American filmmaker, Ken Burns, who has collected quilts since the 1970s, but has never made any of them publicly available before now. This video documents his decision to allow the International Quilt Study Centre and Museum to display a small selection of them for the first time:

<https://youtu.be/tdlRU5B3YsM>

Do you sometimes find yourself not entirely certain about the correct terminology to use when discussing antique furniture? Fortunately, Christie's auction house have you covered with this simple, but extremely useful and informative A-Z of furniture:

https://www.christies.com/features/The-A-Z-of-furniture-A-glossary-7548-1.aspx?sc_lang=en#FID-7548



**The David Roche Foundation
House Museum**

**241 Melbourne Street
North Adelaide 5006**

T: [+61 8 8267 3677](tel:+61882673677)

E: info@rochefoundation.org.au

W: www.rochefoundation.com.au



