

# The David Roche Foundation House Museum



**We are pleased to announce that we won the Best Attraction or Experience category in the Adelaide Advertiser's 2020 City Awards!**

**We would like to thank all our supporters for their efforts in helping us achieve this fantastic result!**

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# TDRF: Club Fermoy #11

Dear friends and supporters,

At the recent Adelaide Advertiser's 2020 City Awards, the museum won the *Best Attraction or Experience* category, which is a marvellous endorsement and indication of the amazing support we receive from our visitors and followers. Thank you all! It's often remarked that we are Adelaide's best 'hidden gem', so it's nice to see a light shining on David Roche's remarkable collection.

In November, Adelaide celebrates the Feast Festival and this year TDRF is thrilled to be bringing Craig Middleton, curator at the National Museum of Australia, back to his home State to present *Queerness, queer identities and exhibitions*. For further information and to make a booking visit our website or the Feast Festival for the full program.

As you will see, this issue has a bit of a horse theme to celebrate the Melbourne Cup and while David Roche watched the race from home, he wasn't averse to occasionally attending the Royal Ascot for the pageantry. Sporting paintings feature prominently in his collection as he admired any artist that could capture the spirit and physicality of animals.

Please enjoy watching the video of Annette Gero and Meg Cox speaking on the military quilts when they were in America and of course don't miss the *War and Pieced* quilt exhibition before it closes 19 December! I might add that Annette's *Wartime Quilts* book makes for a fantastic Christmas gift or see our shop for more Christmas ideas.

Finally, can I ask for a moment of your time to complete our survey? This is our first since opening and we would really love to know a bit more about you and your views so that we can make TDRF an even better place for everyone.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason  
Museum Director

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## EXHIBITION

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

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*Annette Gero discusses the **Soldier's patchwork quilt with incredible border***

## **NOW AVAILABLE... Annette Gero on *War and Pieced***

As a special feature in this edition, we present this absorbing 10-minute video of Annette Gero talking about the c.1855 *Soldier's patchwork with incredible border*, currently on display in the *War and Pieced* exhibition at TDRF.

Produced by Meg Cox of The Quilt Show during the 2017/8 leg of the exhibition at The American Folk Art Museum in New York, this video sees Annette provide her thoughts and insights into the quilt: who made it, who it was made for and how it was made, with a particular focus on how the 14 layers of the 'incredible border' were constructed.

She also discusses her collecting background that started with American quilts, then Australian quilts, and ultimately on to these historical military quilts; recalling how this quilt came to be in her possession, an acquisition that would ultimately lead to the creation of The Annette Gero Collection of Quilts from Military Fabrics.

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Meg Cox, American author, journalist and quilter is a staff writer for Quiltfolk magazine and the Wall Street Journal, where she was a reporter for 17 years. Cox serves on various quilt advisory boards including the International Quilt Museum in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Video reproduced with permission from Meg Cox.

For more, go to [www.megcox.com](http://www.megcox.com).

### **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.

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## TODAY'S TREASURE

Showcasing the favourite pieces of our fantastic guides and volunteers in The David Roche Collection. In this edition, Judy L. discusses the striking *Grotesques* tapestry in the Chinoiserie bedroom, the only tapestry that David Roche collected over the years.



### Our Favourite Pieces

This framed tapestry *Grotesques* panel hangs in the Chinoiserie bedroom, one of my favourite rooms in Fermoy House, and is a superb example of a decorative panel suitable for a less grandiose space; consequently, it sits well in the smaller space of the guest bedroom. This less formal style of tapestry became popular during the period of William III and Mary II, joint rulers of England and Scotland from 1689 to 1694. The work is attributed to the workshop of John Vanderbank, a Huguenot artisan who came to work in London via the Netherlands.

Woven from wool and silk, the natural dyes remain remarkably true after more than 300 years, though the tapestry is cut-down and missing its borders or galloon. The motifs in the design are from a mix of sources and reflect the interest in the 'exotic world' far from Europe. Some of these still remain in use today, as demonstrated in the hand painted cream and blue de Gournay wallpaper that adorns the four walls of the Chinoiserie bedroom displaying exotic birds and plants in a continuous design.

The marvelously detailed tapestry panel includes a pair of classical putti or cupids from antiquity, who cavort amongst oriental arabesques. One holds a Red Cardinal, a bird from the Americas; while the other picks a bunch of grapes. A serpent hangs from the flowing tendril of a wicker basket holding a potted grapevine. Brilliant red, blue and yellow macaws and gold finches sit amongst the vines amid floating vine leaves. In the centre of the panel is a Chinese blue and white porcelain vase with gilded decoration that holds exotic tulips and carnations - species originally from Persia, but grown in China - with butterflies circling, a reference to a Dutch still life *vanitas* tradition. A cheeky monkey and a pheasant occupy the foreground space, while a Gold Cardinal pecks at a bunch of grapes. The objects in the design all standing on a wooden shelf.

The title '*Grotesques*' refers to the small faces decorating the central vase as well as the Renaissance notion of illustrating a fanciful mix of new motifs, not associated with religious or historical narratives.

**Judy L.**  
**Guide**  
**November 2020**

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## CANINE TIDBITS

*Did you know...*

At the time he received his All Breeds judging credentials in 1952, David Roche was the youngest person to do so in the world. David subsequently judged in dog shows across the world, and was a well respected figure on the dog scene, both in Australia and overseas, for over 60 years.

David took his role as a judge very seriously, judging solely on the quality of the dog and nothing else. To that end, he always ensured that he kept up-to-date on the latest standards for wherever he was judging, and, as such, his Dog library contains every All-Breeds standard book and British Kennel Club stud record to 2013.

A selection of David's many judging pins are on display in the Dressing room, and confirm that not only was he a regular figure at shows in Australia and Britain (as the first non-British person to judge Best in Show at Crufts in 1969), but also judged in the United States, Russia, Spain, the Netherlands and India.

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## FROM THE ARCHIVES

Although foremost a lover of dogs, David Roche had a great fondness for many animals, and horses were near the top of the list. David's love of horses is reflected in the great number of equine paintings that adorn his main hallway and kitchen, as well as the finely crafted bronzes that are on display in the Den.

David's taste in equine art followed the same ideal as his canine art - form and function; and so he sought works that depicted the best example of the particular animal. Just as he liked to see the finest example of a dog, so too did he like to see the finest form and musculature of a horse. However, it is interesting then that despite his great love of horses, David neither owned a horse himself or was an accomplished rider.

The main hallway contains some 35 exceptional paintings of horses, most notably the complimentary paintings of *Roxanna* and *Scham* (both TDRF 2109) by Frank Calcroft Turner (Britain 1782-1846). The latter, also known as 'Godolphin Arabian', is most important as he is one of the three stallions that founded the modern Thoroughbred. The Godolphin stud is particularly relevant to the Melbourne Cup at this point because Cross Counter, the winner of last year's Melbourne Cup, is from that stud.

There are further pictures of horses to be found in the kitchen, though in the naive style that he preferred for that room. A particularly beautiful piece is the c.1810 *Sand picture of Percherons in harness* (TDRF 2482), attributed to Benjamin Zobel (Britain 1762-1831), one of the most impressive of the sand pictures in David's collection.

While David was not personally interested in horseracing, he did nonetheless still enjoy watching the Melbourne Cup on the first Tuesday of every November. This was an event that he liked to share with his staff, and, as such, he would invite everyone in to watch the parade of the horses and the race with him in the Den. David was particularly fond of seeing the beautiful roses at Flemington and the fabulous sight of the horses in the mounting yard.



Frank Calcroft Turner (Britain, 1782-1846), *Scham*, 1845, Britain, oil on canvas.  
TDRF 2109

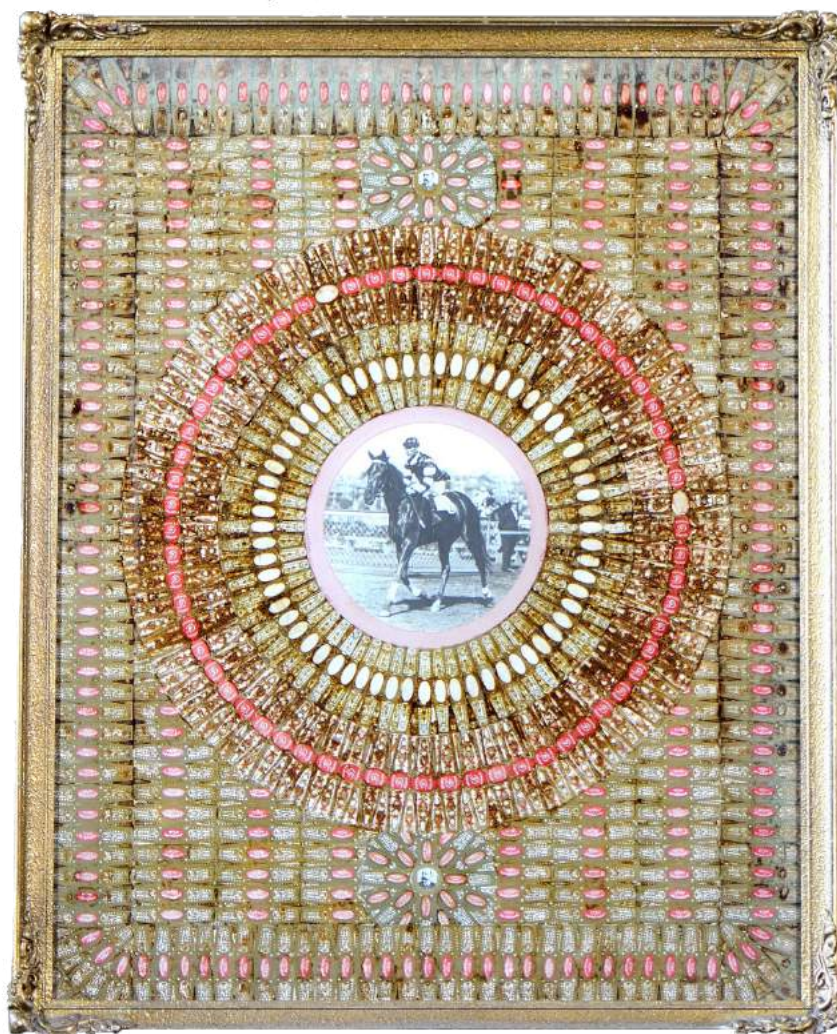




attributed to Benjamin Zobel (Britain 1762-1831), *Sand picture of Percherons in harness*, c.1810, Britain, coloured sand, paper. TDRF 2482

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## ACQUISITION



Australia, *Phar Lap collage*, 1930s, paper, ink, gelatin silver. TDRF 3752

## The Martyn Cook (1958–2019) Bequest 2020

As today is Melbourne Cup Day 2020, in this edition, we are looking at the *Phar Lap collage*, a fascinating piece of mid-20th century equine memorabilia bequeathed by Martyn Cook to The David Roche Collection, which is made almost entirely from hundreds of cigarette wrappers.

At the centre of the work is a monochrome photograph of Phar Lap with jockey J. Pike having just won the A.J.C Derby at Randwick, NSW in October 1929, surrounded by a sunburst of two borders of brown and white cigarette wrappers, the inner with the central label removed, the outer reading 'Rowana / Habana'. Above and below this central panel are two smaller sunbursts of wrappers with the label 'Carola / Havana Blend' and a small monochrome photograph of the same mustachioed individual connected to Phar Lap (possibly a trainer, handler or owner?) in each. This sits against a field of more brown and white cigarette wrappers, which is in turn bordered by yet more cigarette wrappers (all 'Stag / Rothschild').


Unfortunately, this incredible one-of-a-kind piece of Arts and Crafts handiwork is



unsigned, and thereby remains somewhat of a mystery - where and when was it made, and for whom? One also wonders why this tribute to Australia's greatest racing horse was made primarily from cigarette wrappers? For the time being it will remain a mystery, for at this stage, we have found nothing else quite like it.



## DIGITAL COLLECTION

**THE DAVID ROCHE FOUNDATION**

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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 d'art accumulated by him over his lifetime and to be preserved for future generations.

**View Selected Item Types**



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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](mailto: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.

Over 30 new ceramic items have been added to the database recently with some important examples from factories across Europe: fine figures by Meissen, Chelsea-Derby and Vauxhall, a radiant *Octagonal cup and saucer* by KPM (Konigliche Porzellan-Manufaktur), lovely Louis XV and Louis XVI-era porcelain by Sevres, and equally



beautiful c.1775 (in the Dalhousie-style) and c.1810 examples by Worcester.

Click 'View the new additions' button below to enjoy these new pieces!

[View the new additions](#)

[Search the collection](#)

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## SHOP



Back (L to R): House Guide book, *Classical Beauty* notebook  
Front (L to R): Tote bag, Worcester *Fruit* notebook, *Madonna and child* card and  
*Puppies* card.

Christmas is just around the corner, and The David Roche Foundation has plenty of gift ideas!

Our House Guide book is always a popular choice, containing page after page of full colour photographs and detailed descriptions of both David's incredible house and collection.

While our tote bag, with the TDRF Bacchant logo, is not just striking, but also very sturdy!

Plus we also have some gorgeous new additions, including a *Classical Beauty* notebook, and a card featuring the rare and important Chelsea porcelain *Madonna and child*.

Available both in store and online (shipping to anywhere in Australia).

**Get yours now!**

[Visit the shop](#)

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## VISITOR FEEDBACK SURVEY

Please take a few minutes to complete our Visitor Feedback Form, this will provide valuable information that will assist with the future growth and development of TDRF.

By completing this survey, you can enter into the prize draw to win a copy of *Empires & Splendour: At Home with David Roche* (valued at \$98). Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Survey closes 28 November 2020.**



[Start survey](#)



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## 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!



Facebook



Instagram

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## LINKS WE LOVE

Australia has its own National Quilt Register! This is an incredibly valuable resource for the quilting community in Australia, the Register currently has 29 pages worth of important quilts in both public and private collections from across Australia with hi-resolution images, maker, size and location. Plus you can add your own quilt to the database so other quilters can enjoy viewing your masterpiece:

<https://www.nationalquiltregister.org.au/>

In among the 25 quilts on display, visitors to the *War and Pieced* exhibition can also see three exceptional antique British army uniforms. This fascinating article provides a history of the British military uniform, with a particular focus on why the British army adopted their trademark red uniform:

<https://thinkingouttabox.wordpress.com/2010/03/28/history-of-the-british-army-uniform-redcoats/>

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## CHRISTMAS HOURS

Our last day for 2020 is **Wednesday 23 December**.

We will be closed **24 December 2020 - 11 January 2021 inclusive**.

The House re-opens for tours **12 January 2021**.



The David Roche Foundation  
House Museum

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