

# The David Roche Foundation House Museum



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## TDRF: Club Fermoy #12

Dear friends and supporters,

December has arrived and while the last few weeks in Adelaide haven't been smooth sailing with Covid-19, we have managed for the most part to keep *War and Pieced: The Annette Gero Collection of Quilts from Military Fabrics* open. Now in its final weeks, I urge you to visit and see these incredible, richly patterned and colourful quilts before they are returned to Annette. In lieu of visiting, she kindly agreed to be interviewed by TDRF's

Assistant Curator, Nathan Schroeder, and the podcast is available via a link in this newsletter.

When you visit in December make sure to view our Christmas tree decorated with David Roche's antique and contemporary decorations, many purchased on his travels and enjoyed annually. This includes a wonderful wire wreath comprising of animals from around the globe which he bought in America and promptly had gilded to suit his décor!

Looking ahead to next year, TDRF will launch its exhibition *Captain Cook & the Art of Memorabilia* in late January. With major loans from the National Library of Australia, the return of David's *Resolution* table c.1810 to Adelaide, and contemporary First Nations responses to Cook, this exhibition is not to be missed. More details to come in January.

As always *Club Fermoy* is packed with interesting stories ranging from David's fashionable appearance on the canine circuit for many decades to his collecting of Japanese Meiji period objets d'art. Martyn's shared passion with David for acquiring Napoleonic art is also observed in the illustrated pair of handsome, neoclassical roundels bequeathed to TDRF.

Although the festive season will be a little different this year, enjoy your time with family and friends and importantly, show your appreciation for those you love and cannot visit overseas.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason  
Museum Director

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## VISITOR FEEDBACK SURVEY: EXTENDED

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

In addition, 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.



**Now extended, survey closes 18  
December 2020.**

[Start survey](#)

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# EXHIBITION: CLOSING SOON

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

### PODCAST



### **NOW AVAILABLE... Annette Gero on historical military quilts**

You've seen her quilts in the *War and Pieced* exhibition, now hear from the woman herself! For your listening pleasure, we present Annette Gero in conversation with Nathan, our Assistant Curator, for this in-depth and engaging 20-minute discussion recorded in November 2020.

In this candid interview, Annette discusses a wide variety of topics: she reminisces about her history of collecting, studying and researching historical military quilts, including when and why she first started collecting them and her ongoing attempts to uncover more; discloses her thoughts on who made these quilts, where they were made and why; shares her pleasure at having the *War and Pieced* exhibition at The David Roche Foundation and let's us know which of the 25 quilts on display in the *War and Pieced* exhibition is her favourite and why!

Just click the button below and enjoy!

[Listen now](#)



### 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, Jennifer H. discusses the two Japanese carved *Rabbits* in the Main bedroom, part of David Roche's small, but significant collection of Japanese works.



### Our Favourite Pieces

In a cabinet near the window in David Roche's bedroom are two Japanese carved ivory rabbits. Although not a matching pair with each bearing a different carver's signature, they most likely emanate from the same Tokyo workshop.

The realism of their carving, the detailed fur and appealing poses are typical features of works created by members of the Tokyo Sculptors' Society (Tokyo *Chōkō-kai* established 1887). Many of the members were originally trained as Buddhist sculptors or netsuke carvers prior to the modernisation of Japan. *Rabbits* date from the early twentieth century.

Intended to be *okimono* or ornaments for the export market, *Rabbits* are carved from one block of ivory with details underneath as fine as those visible above. The choice of ivory as the carving medium may reflect the mythology of the white rabbit that

accompanied Amaterasu, the Shinto Sun Goddess, to find shelter.

The very distinctive carving style, reflecting a fusion of Japanese traditions and Western tastes, was influenced by Ishikawa Kōmei (1852-1913) who was Professor of Sculpture at the Tokyo School of Fine Arts and Imperial Household Artist.

**Jennifer H.  
Guide  
December 2020**



David Roche showing Australian Champion *Fermoy Fantango*, at Royal Adelaide Show, 1995

## CANINE TIDBITS

*Did you know...*

Not only was David Roche noted for the exquisite presentation of his dogs, he himself was also always very smartly dressed whether judging or exhibiting. He took pride in his appearance and was easily recognisable at the dog shows, especially when wearing one of his favourite outfits.

In his later years, this always included his famous yellow jacket, which would be combined with either a red or yellow cashmere pullover, depending on weather conditions. Ties were also a very important part of the outfit, and David collected many fine examples over the years, particularly those with a dog theme, as he liked to wear Breed Specific ties when judging Breed Specialties. A favourite outlet for David in this regard was Carmel, a wonderful menswear shop in California that carried among other things, an amazing selection of beautiful ties. To complete his ensemble, David always wore an ornamental fox's head on a gold bar on his jacket lapel to which he secured his exhibition tickets.

David had a lifelong interest in fashion and was never afraid of colour or pattern and indeed, he owned a smart menswear shop The Cock's Feathers, in Gawler Place, Adelaide for some years. As a young man travelling to his first overseas appointment in the early 50s through to his final Adelaide Royal Show in 2012, David always ensured that both man and dog were presented to perfection.



David Roche showing English and Australian Champion *Granemore Kilfenora*, imported UK, at the Royal Adelaide Show, c.1980





## FROM THE ARCHIVES

During his various travels around the world, in amongst dogs shows, auctions and antique emporiums, David was often to be found visiting a variety of galleries and museum, large and small. One type that David most enjoyed viewing was the house museum. Indeed, this fascination was key in the process that ultimately lead to him creating The David Roche Foundation.

In his Foreword to the first edition of *Empires and Splendour*, he recalled:

*"At the beginning, I was very hesitant about setting up a foundation. It took much persuasion for me to believe that my little collection was good enough to do more than give me pleasure. It was visits to small, now famous, collections such as the Mario Praz Collection in Rome that made me think it might be possible."*

David Roche 2008

The Mario Praz Museum at Palazzo Primoli in Rome was the residence of the late Italian art and literature critic (1896-1982), whose book, *On Neoclassicism*, was also of great interest to David. The museum consists of 10 rooms with more than 1200 pieces, including paintings, sculptures and furniture. The works themselves are primarily neoclassical from the late 18th-early 19th century, the same style favoured by David. In the above and below images, David can be seen looking in fascination in his surroundings that

resemble the rooms of his own Fermoy House today.

However, the Praz Museum was not alone in David's regard. He was also particularly fond of the Sir John Soane Museum in London, home of one of the leading Regency architects, who assembled a collection of fine and decorative arts and antiques that covered ancient Egypt through to Soane's own lifetime. As well as the Hillwood Estate, Museum and Garden in Washington DC, lately of businesswoman, socialite, philanthropist and collector, Marjorie Merriweather Post, with its collection of Faberge and 18th and 19th century French art. Both awed and inspired David, and lead him to increase his efforts to create a collection and house museum worthy to stand alongside these great examples.



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## ACQUISITION





Bertrand Andrieu (France 1763-1822), *One of a pair of Napoleonic roundels (Napoleon)*, c.1805-10, cast lead, patinated, gilt bronze. TDRF 3854

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

Among the last items acquired by Martyn Cook were this impressive pair of First French Empire cast lead roundels with bronze patination by renowned French medalist, Bertrand Andrieu. One shows Napoleon alone in the profile, while in the other, he is accompanied by his empress, though interestingly, there is no consensus as to exactly which empress is depicted, Josephine or Marie Louise of Austria, as the portrait is so classicised and generic that it could be either. Notably, these roundels still have their original frame and hanging ring.

In both versions, Napoleon is crowned by the Corona Civitas or 'Civic Crown', an ancient Roman military decoration that was first introduced in the Republican-era, given to those who saved the lives of his fellow countrymen. Later, starting with Augustus (who Napoleon saw as a model for himself), it was awarded to all Roman Emperors, and subsequently became a symbol of Imperial Rome. In this way, Napoleon's wearing of it connects him to the emperors of ancient Rome, and references his own imperial ambitions.

Napoleon was deeply inspired by ancient Rome, and sought to emulate that civilisation in a

number of ways: his army marched under the eagle banner (as did the Roman legions), his victory at Austerlitz was commemorated by the Arc de Triomphe (after the triumphal arches of ancient Rome) and the Vendome column (modelled after the Column of Trajan), and in art, Napoleon was often depicted in Roman dress, including in Canova's famed *Napoleon as Mars the Peacemaker* and Callet's *Allegory of the Battle of Marengo*.

The roundels are both signed on Napoleon's shoulder, 'Andrieu F' (Andrieu Fecit). The medalist, Bertrand Andrieu, was a student of Nicolas-Marie Gatteaux (1751-1832), and a proponent of the neoclassical style, which was perfectly suited to Napoleon's imperial outlook. Andrieu was considered an exceptional medalist and restorer of the art, and was so highly regarded by his contemporaries that he was commissioned by the various French governments to undertake every medallion of importance over the last twenty years of his life, including medallions of the Russian Emperor Alexander I (1777-1825), as well as the restored Bourbon king, Louis XVIII (1755-1824).



Bertrand Andrieu (France 1763-1822), *One of a pair of Napoleonic roundels (Napoleon & Empress (Josephine or Marie Louise))*, c.1805-10, cast lead, patinated, gilt bronze. TDRF 3854

The screenshot shows the website for The David Roche Foundation. At the top left is the logo with the text 'THE DAVID ROCHE FOUNDATION'. To the right are links for 'Help', 'About', and 'Log In', along with the 'POWERED BY INMAGIC' logo. A navigation bar contains 'Search The Collection', 'Go to The Roche Foundation Web Site', 'Back to Homepage', and a 'Search Text' field with a magnifying glass icon. The main content area is divided into three columns:

- Search the Collection:** Includes a search box with the placeholder 'Type Your Quick Search Here', a search button, and links for 'Alternative Search Screen' and 'About the collection'. A short history of the foundation is provided below.
- View Selected Item Types:** Features three image thumbnails with links: 'View all Jewellery', 'View all Clocks', and 'View all Paintings'. Below this is a 'News and events' section with a paragraph about the monthly lecture series and a 'Current exhibition' link.
- The David Roche Foundation:** Contains information about guided tours of Fermoy House, including the schedule (Tuesday to Saturday, 10:00am to 2:00pm) and pricing (General \$20, Concession \$17). It also lists the address (241 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide SA 5006), contact details (Phone: +61 8 8267 3677, Email: info@rochefoundation.org.au), and a note about limited parking.

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.

Numerous new ceramic items have been added to the database over the last month, and we have included a selection of those for you via the link below. These include a number of pieces by the famous Wedgwood Factory (also Wedgwood and Bentley) including the Egyptian-style Canopic Jar, Jasperware Easter Egg, Neoclassical medallions, and pair of white terracotta vases, as well as a selection of delightful porcelain pieces by Worcester, Chelsea, Derby, and Dagoty.

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

[View the new additions](#)

[Search the collection](#)

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## CHRISTMAS SHOPPING





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 now, so if you're looking for a few more gifts, check out our ideas!

Our House Guide book (\$20) 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 (\$25), with the TDRF *Bacchant* logo, is not just striking, but also very sturdy!

Also on display is our ever popular Worcester *Fruit* notebook (\$6) and *Puppies* greeting cards (\$4ea or \$15 for 5).

Plus we also have some gorgeous new additions, including a *Classical Beauty* notebook (\$7), and a greeting card featuring the rare and important Chelsea porcelain *Madonna and child* (\$4ea or \$15 for 5).

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

**Don't miss out!**

Visit the shop

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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

Since its rediscovery in 1987, the *Rajah Quilt* has been recognised as one of the most important examples of the quilting art from early colonial Australia. Consisting of 2815 pieces, it was made by an unknown number of female passengers on board the convict vessel *HMS Rajah* as they sailed from Woolwich to Hobart from 5 April to 19 July 1841, with supplies donated by the British Ladies Society for the Reformation of Female Prisoners. It stands as not merely a stunning piece of work, but a fascinating record of women in early colonial Australia:

<https://nga.gov.au/rajahquilt/>

Coming late January 2021 is our new exhibition *Captain Cook & the Art of Memorabilia*, which we're hard at work on right now. However, if you're interested in the early European exploration of Australia, then you might enjoy this page, which not only has a chronology of the early (pre-Cook) explorers to reach Australia, but also a wide variety of free e-books on the topic:

<http://gutenberg.net.au/aust-discovery.html>

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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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