

The David Roche Foundation House Museum



Ali Gumillya Baker (Mirning people, Australia born 1975), *Sovereign Fleet (black)*, 2013, Australia, photographic print on archival paper, 157.5 x 107cm. On loan from the artist. © Ali Gumillya Baker. On display in *Captain Cook & the Art of Memorabilia*

TDRF: Club Fermoy #15

Dear friends and supporters,

Festival season has begun and how lucky are we to enjoy the freedom to attend concerts and performances once again. Both Jonathon Glonek's *J.S. Bach violin evenings* in the Cook

exhibition and the *Adelaide Festival 1:1 Concerts* in Fermoy House have sold out and it's wonderful to see the museum being used for live music. Might I add too that the Deadly Nannas who performed at our recent twilight exhibition evening were fantastic, and the first singers to rap in David's Roman room. Great fun.

If you haven't seen *Captain Cook & the Art of Memorabilia* yet, I encourage you to visit to take advantage of this rare opportunity to view early maps and images of Australia alongside some stunning contemporary art. This includes the work of South Australian artists Ali Gumillya Baker, Sandra Saunders, Darren Siwes and, prior to his recent move to Canberra, James Tylor. I saw Siwes' *Oz Omnium Rex Et Regina* series in 2008 and was struck by its strength and majesty. It's been a pleasure to exhibit *Bronze, Silver and Gold Boy* from the series in *Captain Cook* through the generosity of lender Flinders University Museum of Art.

This month *Club Fermoy* includes a write-up on the talented nineteenth-century British sporting painter George Earl while Canine tidbits takes us back to the very beginning of David Roche's love of exhibiting dogs. David's father bought him his first dog and David went on to save his own pocket money to buy his first Kerry Blue for three guineas (with inflation that's about \$270 today). Nat Williams, who spoke here recently on tapa cloth, recalls his links to the Foundation and David, and we resume our acquisition segment dedicated to the generosity of Martyn Cook.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason
Museum Director

EXHIBITION



Captain Cook & the Art of Memorabilia

Explore Captain Cook through the objects connected to him, and contemporary responses to his impact on Australia.

Come and learn about Captain Cook and the impact of his three late 18th century expeditions. See items that were once owned by Cook himself and came with him on his voyages of discovery. Hear about the ongoing effect of his 1770 arrival on the east coast of Australia for the First Nations people that inhabit this ancient country, through a powerful series of works by contemporary First Nations artists, including Christian Thompson, Ali Gumillya Baker, Daniel Boyd and Gordon Bennett.

On display for the first time at TDRF as part of this exhibition is the *HMS Resolution* table, acquired by David Roche in 2004. A wonderful piece of Regency-era furniture that contains a centrepiece made from a piece of Cook's second ship, the *HMS Resolution*, as well as cuts of wood from the various countries visited by Cook on his voyages around the Pacific.

Details: *Captain Cook & the Art of Memorabilia*

Only at The David Roche Foundation House Museum

Until 29 May 2021

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 4pm

Exhibition ticket Adult \$15. Concession \$12. Children under 12 free.

No booking required. Please note we operate a COVIDSafe Plan.

TODAY'S TREASURE

Showcasing the favourite pieces of our fantastic guides and volunteers in The David Roche Collection. In this edition, Geoff S. looks into George Earl's portrait of the pointer, Drake, and provides a fascinating history of the pointer and setter field trials in the mid-19th century.



Our Favourite Pieces

Portrait of Drake by George Earl (Britain 1824-1908), c. 1875

An outstanding dog portrait in the Den at Fermoy House is George Earl's portrait of the pointer, Drake. At the time this portrait was painted Drake was still owned by his breeder, Richard Garth QC. Later, prior to his departure for India where he was to become Chief Justice of Bengal in March 1875, Garth sold his dogs, including Drake. Although he was then seven years old, Drake was purchased by RJ Lloyd Price for the astounding price of 150 guineas (about £18,000 in today's money).

The first field trials in England were run for pointers and setters in 1865 and in 1869, the National Pointer and Setter Society held the first [Champion Stake](#). Six dogs ran in that first Stake and the winner was Drake – he won again 1870.

For many years afterwards, Drake was considered the best pointer that ever contested a field trial. He was thought to be superior to any other pointer or setter of the time with regard to speed, handling, and bird manners. According to author 'Stonehenge' (J.H Walsh), Drake “on account of his marvellous speed . . . invariably dropped to his points in order to stop himself in time, otherwise he would have run over his game. It was not until in later life—his seventh season, in fact—that he began to assume a standing position on point.”

Much later dogs in England's field trial origins would commonly move at much higher speeds, dogs moving at that pace in the 1870s were far more exceptional than the norm. This set him apart from the much larger, slower dogs that came before. Drake became notable in the field and was considered a great producer, not because of his owner's ability to market and advertise his dog's capabilities, but through the dog's own honest merits and achievements. He was a great athlete that changed the race and standards of race and range in the field trials subsequent to his time in the field.

Geoff S. - March 2021



CANINE TIDBITS

Did you know...

David Roche owned a variety of breeds in his lifetime.

He is of course, most well known for Kerry Blue Terriers and Afghan Hounds and, in the latter part of his life, Smooth Fox Terriers. However, his first dog was actually an English Cocker Spaniel that he received when he was just eight years old; truly dogs were David's lifelong passion. He exhibited this dog, but never made him up to his Championship.

It was a year after this first attempt that David acquired his first Kerry Blue Terrier. A South Australian bred dog, Shaun of Inglewood, became David's first Champion in 1947. Over the subsequent decades, David would have numerous champion Kerry Blues; however, it was Shaun who was the beginning of his lifetime of dedication to this breed.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

In this edition we share an excerpt from an interview with Nat Williams, former Treasures Curator at the National Library of Australia, who organised for David Roche's *HMS Resolution* table to be displayed at the NLA:

I had a phone call many years ago when I was working at the National Library of Australia, from a friend of mine, Julian Bickersteth, who told me that David Roche had acquired this extraordinary table, the Resolution table. However, as it didn't quite fit into his collecting focus, he wasn't sure what to do with it. And so he asked if I might be interested in showing it at the library.

I said that would be fantastic.

Through that conversation I met Martyn Cook, and we set it up. The table came to us, we had a showcase specially built, it sat in the foyer for years, in this position where everyone would walk past it, and it was much admired by people. About half a million people a year were noticing it on their way in and out of the library.

Further down the track, after we had success with our treasures exhibitions, we developed the Treasures Gallery that opened in October 2011, and basically we went back to David, and asked if we could transfer it into this new gallery? The reason being because I thought it would work nicely alongside a very large painting the Death of Cook by George Carter and one of Cook's travelling desks, which he would have had carried on and off the ships, and I thought on the right hand side we

could have this very beautiful library table. David was delighted to have that happen, so it spent the next 10 years in that gallery space, in the context of Cook's journal, orders, portraits, Wedgwood, and the whole Cook story.

It was a lovely way to make their acquaintance, and it made me familiar with David's collection. I did come to visit it on a couple of occasions.

It's interesting actually. We kept asking David to come to Canberra, as a generous lender to us, who we greatly appreciated, willing as he was to lend us such a splendid object. But he refused. Treasures Gallery opened, wouldn't come. Opening of various major exhibitions, no. I got the impression that he was really a very private person, and he was getting older, into his 80s, and he didn't particularly like travelling that much. I kept thinking, I'm never going to be able to put a face to the name.

Then one day Martyn rang up, and said, 'Look, I'm coming down from Sydney, with some friends, including David'. So David finally got to see the Treasures Gallery, and his table in situ and he was thrilled. It was fantastic to be able to show David around the gallery – at that stage, he was in a wheelchair, though he was still very bright and sociable – and, being with friends, he was very relaxed; it was a lovely meeting. I had hoped that it would be the first of more meetings, that we might tempt him to come back to Canberra, but sadly it wasn't to be. I did actually write on David for the National Library magazine about his collecting, collection and what a remarkable person he was. And a bit of a character.

I felt very privileged to have met him.

- Nat Williams (interview 2021)

ACQUISITION



Paul Sormani (France 1817-1877), Emile Riviera (France active c. 1870-90) silversmith, *Trousse d'Voyage* (travel case & vanity), c.1867-77, Paris, leather, ivory, bone, silver, steel, cut glass. TDRF 3938.

The Martyn Cook (1958–2019) Bequest 2020

Once owned by a gentleman of some means is this wonderful Gladstone-shaped mid-19th century French *Trousse d'Voyage*, or travel case and vanity, by Parisian maker, Paul Sormani.

Sormani himself was a popular maker of his time, and had premises at 10 rue Charlot in Paris. His standing was greatly aided by having the favour of the Empress Eugenie (wife of Napoleon III), who commissioned the Sormani firm to decorate their palaces. However, the firm also made very fine men's cases, like this example.

The case itself, of green epi leather, is in excellent condition, and not only do most of the original implements still remain, but they are in exceptional condition. All the necessary accoutrements for the gentleman to keep comfortable and well-kept on his travels are present, including a shoe horn, combs, hair, clothes and shoe brushes, an inkwell, a note pad, and fold-out cases containing shaving blades, scissors, files, tweezers, corkscrews, and sock or cuff hooks.

Tooled into the side of the case are initials, R.P.H., likely those of the original owner. However, unfortunately, as no further clues are apparent in or on the case as to the identity of this figure, R.P.H. will likely always remain simply a tantalising mystery.

EVENTS



The French Revolution as an agent of Change

with Michael Carr

Thursday 25 March 2021 | 6PM

The French Revolution is one of the great events of the Modern European historical calendar. Never before had such dramatic change come so rapidly and ruthlessly to a major European monarchy and transformed ancient State institutions. The changes wrought by the Revolution are still reverberating in French society today and the Revolution remains a significant model and subject of study.

With reference to The David Roche Collection, Michael Carr will seek to explain why the monarchy collapsed so quickly and why the dreamed of and sought after “peoples’ democracy” remained yet a dream for Frenchman for almost another century.”

Michael Carr is an art dealer and historian with over 20 years’ experience in handling major Australian and international paintings and sculptures, including Old Masters and contemporary works. He has lectured extensively over the years to numerous audiences including the AGNSW Society, corporate groups and societies and more recently at the NGA, Canberra.

Tickets \$25 (includes a complimentary glass of wine on arrival)

Limited parking on-site

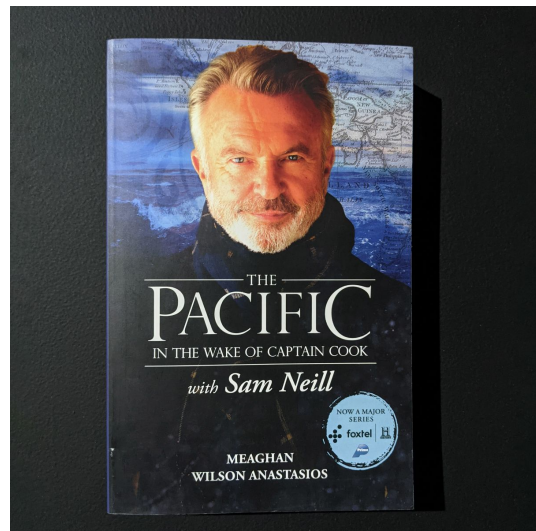
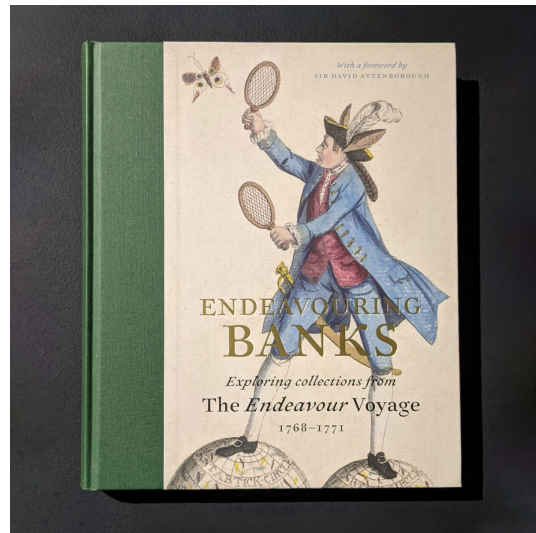
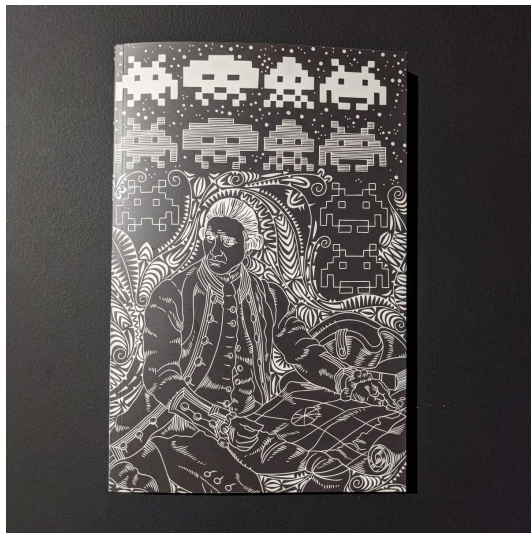
[Book now](#)

SHOP:
Cook exhibition merchandise

As part of the *Captain Cook & the Art of Memorabilia* exhibition, The David Roche Foundation online shop has a number of wonderful Cook-related objects for sale, including a number of some fascinating books and beautiful catalogues.

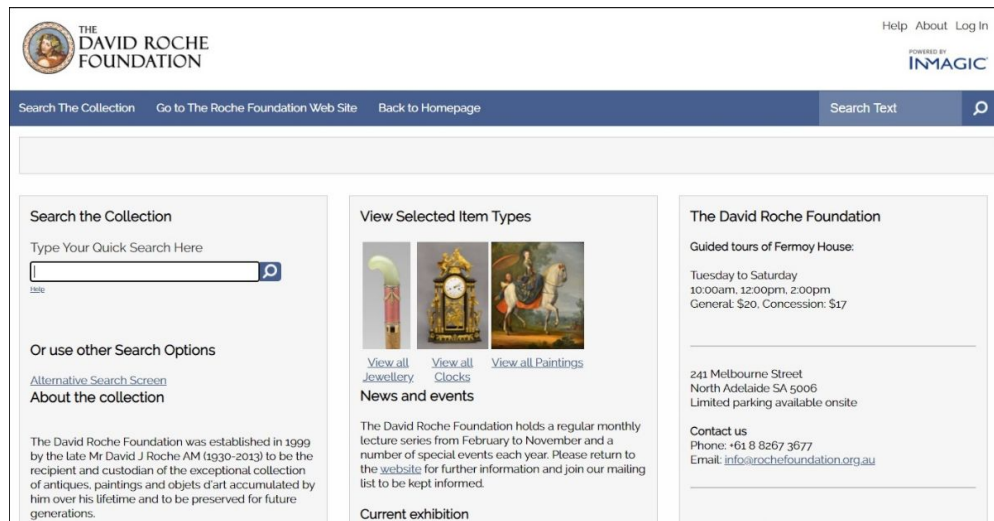
On offer are the National Museum of Australia's *Endeavour Voyage* exhibition catalogue; *Endeavouring Banks*, which explores the pieces collected by Joseph Banks during Cook's first voyage; and *The Pacific in the Wake of Captain Cook*, the print companion to the popular series currently showing on ABC television.

And don't miss out on picking up one of the gorgeous tea towels with designs by First Nations artists!



[Visit the shop](#)

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.

Search the collection

In addition, we are constantly adding new pieces to the online database, this week we have added another 20 Staffordshire ceramic works for your viewing pleasure, including a fine selection of David's hen tureens, children's ABC plates and mugs, and the exquisite and rare salt-glazed *Camel teapot* from 1745. Click View New Items below.

View new items



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!



LINKS WE LOVE

Acquired in 1923, the *Cook Endeavour* journal is one of the key Cook-related treasures in the collection of the National Library of Australia. Written in Cook's own hand and with numerous changes and revisions, it presents a more personal version of James Cook, the man behind the symbol. Now fully digitised, you can see it on the NLA website here:

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-228958465/view>

A little known fact about the exploration of Australia is that the first native-born circumnavigator of the continent was Kuringgai man, Bungaree (1775-1830). In his younger years, Bungaree would often join British exploratory missions as an interpreter and guide, including sailing with Matthew Flinders twice. It was his presence on Flinders' second voyage from 1801 to 1803 that resulted in Bungaree achieving his feat. Hear more about Bungaree in this ABC interview with Keith Vincent Smith, author of the book, *King Bungaree*:

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/sydney/programs/breakfast/eora78-mix/9816146>



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TDRF acknowledges the Kurna people as the traditional owners of the Adelaide region. We recognise and respect Kurna heritage, beliefs and spiritual relationship with Country, and we pay our respect to Elders past and present.



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