

The David Roche Foundation House Museum



Wedgwood & Bentley (Britain 1769-1780), *Portrait medallion of Captain Cook*, c.1777, jasper, blue and white, 11.0 x 9.3cm (frame). National Library of Australia, nla.obj-137362825-c.

TDRF: Club Fermoy #13

Dear friends and supporters,

Happy New Year! In our January summer edition we thought to treat you to a few highlights of what's happening here before we return to our full length Club Fermoy newsletter in February. For those lucky enough to have some idle time, January is perfect to visit David Roche's home for a guided tour at a reduced rate of just \$12 or \$10 concession. Only available until Friday 29 January!

On Saturday 30 January, our TDRF curated exhibition *Captain Cook & the Art of Memorabilia* opens with over ninety works of art from collections across Australia. This major exhibition, three years in the making, arose from David Roche's acquisition of the *HMS Resolution table* and interest in early European decorative arts related to Australia. Read on to learn more about the table, exhibition and our upcoming series of lectures and events.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason
Museum Director

EXHIBITION:

CAPTAIN COOK & THE ART OF MEMORABILIA

Opening 30 January



Thomas Hannam and Richard Mills, *Silver salver (with Cook's coat of arms)*, 1764, London, engraved sterling silver, 3.8 x 31.0cm (dia). National Library of Australia, nla.obj-232446516-m.

In 2004 David Roche acquired the *HMS Resolution* table, c.1810, a significant piece of English Regency memorabilia so-called because it contains a piece of oak from the ship and an inscription to James Cook's achievements set amongst exotic timbers from the lands visited by Cook. Displayed for the first time at the Foundation, the table is joined by items generously lent by the National Library of Australia as well as numerous works of art from other important public, private and university collections in Australia.

Following four major themes the exhibition begins with Cook's recording and charting of the east coast of Australia and Tasmania. The exhibition then turns its attention to the idea of memorabilia: *objects that are collected because they are connected with a person or event that is thought to be remarkable and worthy of remembrance; memorable; mementoes of the past; souvenirs; relics*. 'Memorabilia' uniquely encompasses Cook both as person and an event that has evolved in relation to Australia. Personal items belonging to Cook are joined by photographs of commemorative events, children's games, medallions, theatre broadsides and even crochet's of 'Cook's cottage' in Melbourne.

The third theme explores images of Cook which have at once proliferated and

established a set of character traits that persisted well into the 20th century. These historical works are situated alongside contemporary responses by Ben Quilty and First Nations artists Gordon Bennett, Christian Thompson and Sandra Saunders to interrogate what Cook means today. The final, fourth intersection with Cook, considers the visualisation of sovereignty through coins, medallions, photography and film by First Nations artists Darren Siwes, James Tylor, Ali Gumillya Baker and Daniel Boyd. They speak to history through their own perspectives and allow us all to reconsider Captain Cook.

Details: *Captain Cook & the Art of Memorabilia*

Only at The David Roche Foundation House Museum

Opens 30 January 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.

TDRF 2021 EVENT CALENDAR

The David Roche Foundation has a full schedule of lectures, performances and other events lined up for the first half of 2021, all of which are listed here for your convenience, so you can plan your year in advance:

TALKS:

Thursday 11 February 5-8PM:

Twilight evening at TDRF

Wednesday 17 February 6PM:

In Cook's wake by Nat Williams (former Treasures curator, National Library of Australia)

Thursday 18 February 6PM:

Cook and the National Library of Australia by Dr. Susannah Helman (Program Manager Curatorial, Exhibitions, National Library of Australia)

Thursday 18 March 6PM:

A talk on Cook by Angus Trumble

Thursday 25 March 6PM:

The French Revolution as an agent of Change: Cause and effect – the rapid transformation of an Absolute Monarchy into Rule by Committee by Michael Carr

Thursday 15 April 6PM:

A talk on Cook by Associate Prof. Katrina Schlunke (University of Tasmania)

Saturday 24 April 1-4PM:

Mini-symposium: *Captain Cook & the Art of Memorabilia*

Thursday 20 May 6PM:

James Cook's Resolution and Adventure Medals, a talk by Peter Lane (the Honorary Numismatist, Art Gallery of South Australia, and Board member of the Australiana Society)

CONCERTS:

Wednesday 24 February 7:30-9PM:

Jonathon Glonek presents J.S. Bach, Adelaide Fringe Event

[**BOOK NOW**](#)

Wednesday 3 March 7:30-9PM:

Jonathon Glonek presents J.S. Bach, Adelaide Fringe Event

[**BOOK NOW**](#)

Tuesday 9 March 4-6PM:

1:1 concerts, Adelaide Festival Event

[**BOOK NOW**](#)

Wednesday 10 March 4-6PM:

1:1 concerts, Adelaide Festival Event

[**BOOK NOW**](#)

[View calendar](#)

TODAY'S TREASURE

Showcasing the incredible pieces acquired by David Roche during his over 60 years of collecting. In this edition, we look at HMS Resolution table - which will be displayed for the first time at TDRF - that contains a part of HMS Resolution, the ship used by Captain James Cook on his second and third voyages of discovery. The article, written by Christopher Menz, is taken from our publication *Empires & Splendour: At Home with David Roche*.



The *HMS Resolution* table is in the form of a library table or large sofa table. It has an unusual history in that it is a commemorative table and its construction contains timber from the *HMS Resolution*, whose most famous commander was Captain Cook (1728–79), as well as exotic timbers from many of the countries he visited on his momentous voyages of exploration and discovery. An inscription on ivory panels above, beneath and on an image of an inlaid urn of English oak (from the vessel) on the top of the table reads:

Part of H·M·S Resolution

Sacred to the Memory of CAPTⁿ COOK

Deriving worth from Cooks illustrious name

This Ship shall live in rolls of endless fame

The top is a complex marquetry inlay, containing, in addition to the oak fragment souvenired from the *Resolution*, numerous exotic timbers from many of the countries Cook visited. These have been identified as: casuarina (Australia), rosewood (Brazil), Macassar ebony (Celebes), yew and maple (Europe), satinwood (India), and palm tree (New Zealand, Tahiti or Hawaii). Other timbers are probably blackbean and blackwood (Australia), African walnut (Africa), sassafras (Americas), teak (south-east Asia) and kingwood (Brazil).

Christopher Menz

(an abbreviated entry, taken from *Empires & Splendour: At Home with David Roche*)

LINKS WE LOVE

As part of their *In the hold: Decolonising Cook in contemporary Australian art* exhibition, Flinders University Art Museum (FUMA) presented this incisive symposium in late 2020, which explored Cook as an idea and a symbol in the modern day. The symposium brought leading Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists, curators, and academics from Australia and across the world into conversation to consider untold and alternative visions of Cook. FUMA are generous lenders to TDRF's Captain Cook exhibition:

<https://www.flinders.edu.au/museum-of-art/in-the-hold-symposium>

The Captain Cook Society (CCS) is a worldwide organisation that studies all things Captain Cook-related - the man himself, his crew, their voyages, art depicting Cook, Cook memorabilia, and so much more. If you're interested they even have a free quarterly publication, *Cook's Log*, that is full of fascinating articles written by their members:

<https://www.captaincooksociety.com/>

On display as part of *Captain Cook & the Art of Memorabilia* will be a number of pieces from the National Library of Australia, which has an exceptional collection of Cook-related material. Some of this collection was also displayed as part of their 2018 exhibition, *Cook and the Pacific*, which explored the figure of Cook, and his role in the history of the entire Pacific region from viewpoints of all the peoples affected:

<https://www.nla.gov.au/exhibitions/cook-and-the-pacific>



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