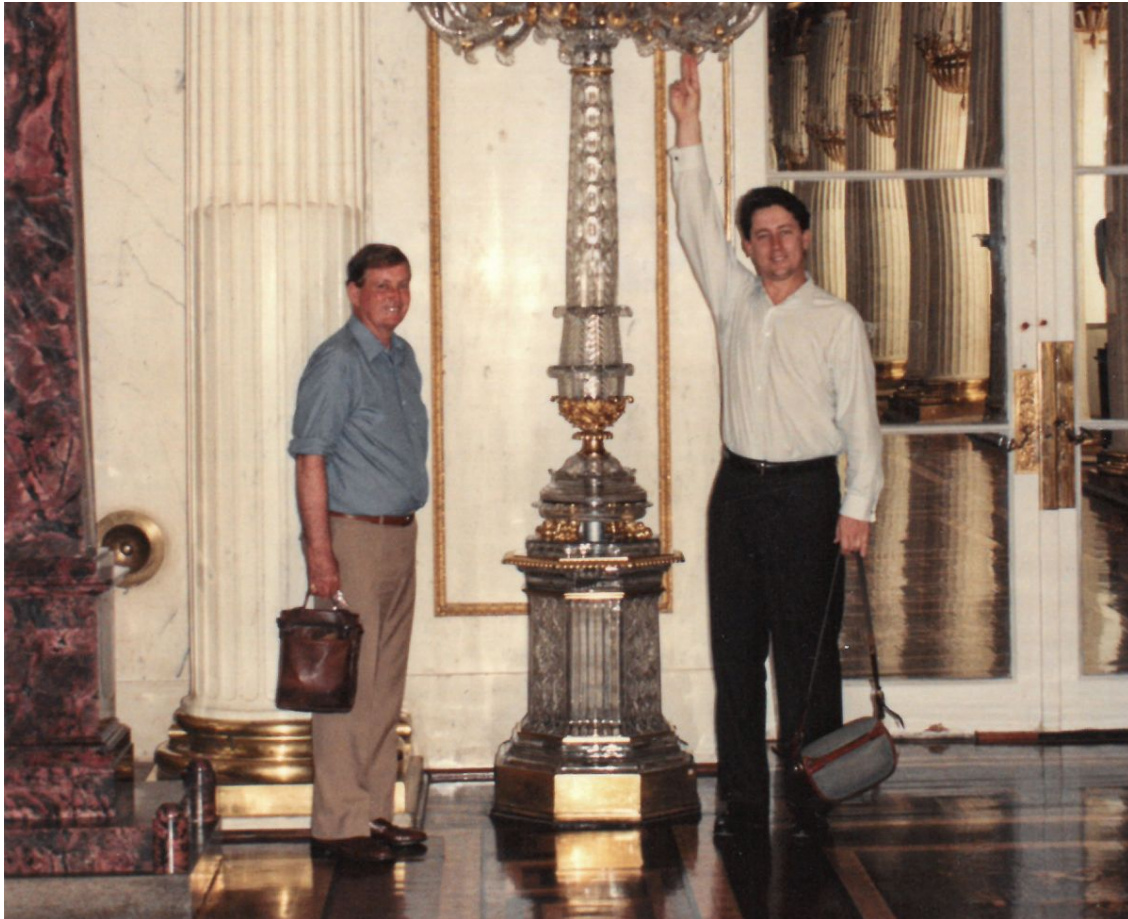


The David Roche Foundation House Museum



David and Martyn at the State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg, Russia, July 1994

TDRF: Club Fermoy #16

Dear friends and supporters,

It is now one year since we started Club Fermoy initially in response to the Covid-19 lockdown in Australia. It's turned out to be a wonderful vehicle to share stories about David Roche's life from the people that knew him and from the archives he left behind. I know I've learnt a great deal more about David and also what intrigues and inspires our volunteers, who work with his collection in Fermoy House. This newsletter is no exception as we remember David and Martyn Cook and take a closer look at a Sartori *Mantel clock* and an English Regency faux-bamboo *table*.

Many of you have taken advantage of visiting *Captain Cook & the Art of Memorabilia*, which

finishes later in May, and have attended the special events programme. In this issue, I would like to draw your attention to Katrina Schlunke's talk *Memorabilia and Melancholia* as she joins us in person from Tasmania for what is sure to be an interesting and insightful lecture. Additionally, Susannah Helman from the National Library of Australia kindly agreed to be interviewed on Cook and her podcast can be accessed via this newsletter or our website.

As Covid restrictions ease further we are pleased to offer group bookings again and to welcome back the many community groups, clubs, continual learning and other organisations that get such pleasure from seeing David's collection. Lastly, if you enjoyed the Quilt exhibition you're sure to love our upcoming exhibition, but more on that in our May newsletter.

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.

The exhibition includes the striking series *Bronze Boy*, *Silver Boy* and *Gold Boy* (above) by First

Nations artist, Darren Siwes, as a reflection on the role that currency plays in the promulgating colonialism in Australia. Siwes ponders the question of why Australian currency depicts the monarch of Great Britain, the colonisers, rather than a First Nations figure, and imagines how such a coin might appear.

Image: Darren Siwes (Dalabon people, Australia b. 1968), *Bronze boy, Silver boy and Gold Boy (from the Series Oz Omnium Rex Et Regina)*, 2007, Australia, cibachrome photographic print on metallic paper, 107.5 x 127cm. Collection of Flinders University Museum of Art. Courtesy GAGPROJECTS, Adelaide.

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.

PODCAST



NOW AVAILABLE... Susannah Helman on Cook memorabilia at the National Library of Australia

Forming the nucleus of the *Captain Cook & the Art of Memorabilia* exhibition are 29 items generously loaned to TDRF by the National Library of Australia. Recently, Susannah Helman, Program Manager Curatorial, came to TDRF and spoke to our Assistant Curator, Nathan, on the fascinating Cook-related items that are held in the collection of the National Library of Australia, including an early version of Cook's journal, the secret instructions from the British Admiralty to Cook, and the advice from James Douglas, the 14th Earl of Morton and President of the Royal Society.

Just click the button below and enjoy!

Listen now

EVENTS



Memorabilia and Melancholia: The Consigning of Captain Cook

A talk by Assoc. Prof. Katrina Schlunke (University of Tasmania)

Thursday 15 April 2021 | 6PM

The many things associated with Captain Cook; artefacts, mass produced items, furniture, art, memorials and the machinery of navigation among many others, show us the way in which the materialisation of Cook, works along complicated networks and complex cultural events. In Australia these things come to our attention in an atmosphere of melancholia where Cook is repeatedly raised but never resolved through the usual processes of mourning. This address will look at the ways in which some of these fascinating and compelling material pieces may suggest ways of being in Cook's wake from which a fair future may arise.

Katrina Schlunke researches and writes across the areas of cultural history, fictocriticism and material cultures and within diverse sites including colonial Australia and Indigenous art. Her work on Cook has included articles on memory and materiality and a reconsideration of the idea of a national 'home'.

Tickets \$25

Limited parking on-site

Image: Ali Gumillya Baker (Mirning people, b. 1975), *Sovereign fleet* (black), 2013, Australia, photographic print on archival paper, 157.5 x 107cm. © Ali Gumillya Baker. On loan from the artist.

Book Now

TODAY'S TREASURE

Showcasing the favourite pieces of our fantastic guides and volunteers in The David Roche Collection. In this edition, Tina M. explains her love of the delicate Louis XVI-era *Mantel clock* by Hubert Sarton in the Chinoiserie bedroom, with its neoclassical touches.



Our Favourite Pieces

Mantel clock by Hubert Sarton (Belgium/France 1748-1828), c. 1785

One of my favourite of the 37 clocks in The David Roche Collection is the elegantly understated wooden clock that sits on the mantelpiece between two pieces of antique blue Chinese porcelain in the Chinoiserie bedroom. A Louis XVI neoclassical mantel clock, it dates to c.1785 and is made of carved pine and fruitwood that is painted in blue and gilded, creating a slightly distressed appearance. The delicacy and

intricacy of the carving matches beautifully with the femininity and charm of the bedroom.

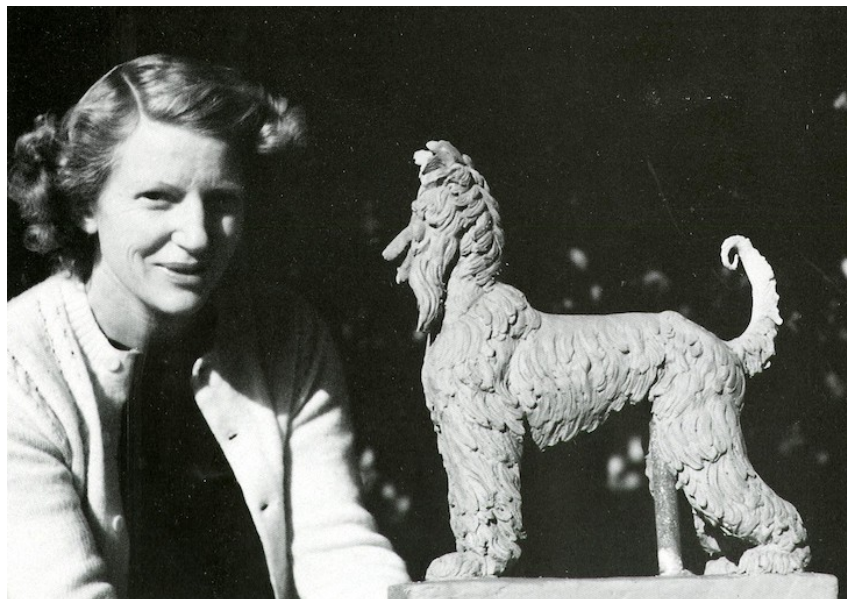
Hidden behind the centre basket of flowers is a sunburst pendulum with a sweet smiling face, reminiscent of the Sun King (Louis XIV) himself. This is bordered with scroll supports and carved finials, with fronds that climb to a neoclassical vase draped with foliate garlands. The white enamel dial displays Roman hours and Arabic minutes and is signed Sarton a Liège for Hubert Sarton (Belgium/France 1748-1828).

Hubert Sarton was a horologist to princes, active in Liège from 1762-1822, which at the time was one of the most dynamic artisan and industrial centres of Europe. He was a renowned Belgian watchmaker, who had been trained by his uncle and godfather, Dieudonné Sarton, in 1762. In 1768, he moved to Paris to complete his apprenticeship and he worked for the royal watch maker to Louis XVI. After becoming a master watchmaker, he returned to Liège in 1772 and became the watchmaker to the Governor of the Netherlands as well as working many years for Prince-Archbishop of Liège, his patron and sponsor, who charged him with founding The Société Libre d'Emulation in Liège in 1779. He is famous for inventing the automatic, self-winding watch, for which he filed a patent at the French Academy of Sciences in 1778. As a clockmaker, he is most well-known for his multi-dial skeleton clocks.

It has been suggested that this mantel clock was a maquette for a gilt-metal clock. A maquette is a model for a larger piece of sculpture, created to visualise how it might look and to work out approaches and materials for how it might be made, without incurring the expense and effort of producing a full-scale piece.

From the bottom of its cute bun feet to the tip of its floral top, this clock continues to be one of my favourite pieces and I am pleased that it remains on display in Fermoy House.

Tina M. - April 2021



CANINE TIDBITS

Did you know...

David Roche met Kay Finch in the United States in the late 1950s. At that time, Kay Finch was an extremely successful breeder and exhibitor of Afghan Hounds under her Crown Crest prefix, as well as an accomplished artist and ceramicist. She and David developed a strong friendship over the years until her passing in 1993. By the end of the 1950s, David had decided that Afghan Hounds were the breed he wanted to go into and that was cemented when he judged Best in Show in England and saw the magnificent Mazari of Carloway. Mazari himself was out of Crown Crest Zardeeka. Eventually, David imported both Mazari and Walliwog of Carloway.

David greatly admired Kay and it was to her he went for advice and subsequently, imported two Crown Crest bitches. They were daughters of the famous Crown Crest Mr Universe. Moving on with his breeding plans, David once again contacted Kay, feeling he needed the input of an American male. Kay contacted Coastwind Kennels and found the dog she was sure would suit David's needs; that dog was Coastwind Holyman. Kay bought him and took him back to her home to live until David arrived some months later, and the rest is history.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



David and Martyn shopping in London, 2005

Over the past couple of weeks, we at The David Roche Foundation House Museum have commemorated two important events in our history: the 8th anniversary

of the passing of our founder, David Roche, on the 27th of March 2013, and the 2nd anniversary of the passing of his close friend, and the inaugural Museum Director of TDRF (2015–2019), Martyn Cook, on the 2nd of April 2019.

In memory of the enduring friendship between David and Martyn, in this edition we present these excerpts from David and Martyn in their respective forewords to *Empires & Splendour: At Home with David Roche*:

David:

"... my great friend Martyn Cook, who has travelled around the world looking for the best that it is possible to find. Without his help I very much doubt that I could have made many trips to find 'treasures'."

Martyn:

"It was a rare privilege to be counted as a friend of David Roche. Although I was an antique dealer in Sydney when I met him thirty years ago (c.1980), it was not through antiques, but through my uncle Bob, who shared his passion for dogs, that we were first introduced [at the Royal Easter show in Sydney]. I respected David's extraordinary knowledge of breed standards, which he required as an international dog judge, and he came to trust my judgement and experience of antiques. David would not necessarily acquire an item on my recommendation, but he would ask for my opinion of its worth and authenticity.

We travelled together to the famous art auctioneers around the world in search of the best, but affordable, acquisitions for each room in the house. In the later years of David's life, I travelled on his behalf to acquire special items at auction. I believe that as a friend and as a travelling companion, you could not want one better or more generous."

ACQUISITION



Britain, *Regency faux-bamboo table*, c. 1820, Britain, rosewood, gilt. TDRF 3944.

The Martyn Cook (1958–2019) Bequest 2020

A fine and unusual piece of Regency-era furniture, this delicate rosewood and gilt side table has its frieze, uprights, platform base and legs carved to simulate the appearance of bamboo, following a fashion particularly in vogue in Britain during the Regency period, and used to exquisite effect here.

The popularity of this fashion came about as a consequence of its display at Brighton Pavilion, one of the most famous residences of the Prince Regent (later George IV), where the use of bamboo or other materials made to appear as bamboo is to be seen throughout. Most recognisable amongst these are the balustrades leading to the first floor, which, though made of mahogany, are carved and painted to imitate bamboo. However, there are also numerous pieces of furniture throughout carved in the same fashion. It was as a consequence of this prominent display that subsequently lead to it become so fashionable in Regency society at large, before its popularity was revived again in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

As a connoisseur of Regency style, David Roche himself could not help but acquire a piece of this faux-bamboo art in the form of a large mirror (TDRF 20) - designed by John Crace (Britain 1754-1819), and similar to those Crace designed for the Glass Passage of Brighton Pavilion - which can be seen on display in the Chinoiserie bathroom of Fermoy House. The new acquisition perfectly compliments the Regency and chinoiserie stylings of David's Fermoy House, and is a fine addition to the Collection.

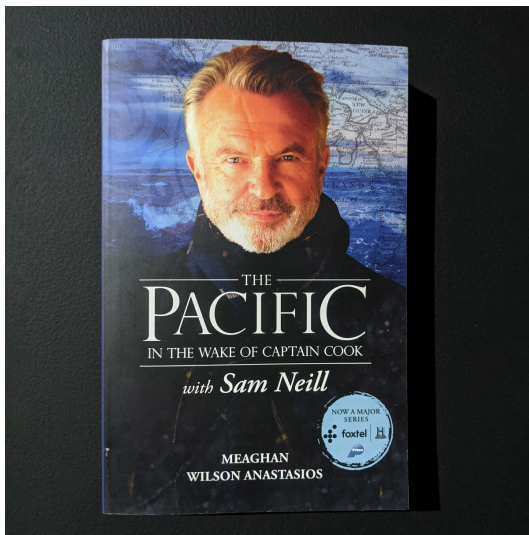
SHOP

Exciting news! We have a new addition to the shop in the form of a gorgeous neoclassical mousepad displaying *Helen of Troy, with Hector rousing Paris*, by the school of Girodet, with its dramatic scene and rich colours, it is a wonderful and eyecatching addition to your work desk.

Also as part of the *Captain Cook & the Art of Memorabilia* exhibition, The David Roche Foundation online shop has a number of Cook-related objects for sale, including books, catalogues and tea towels.

Click the button below to see what is on offer!





Visit the shop

DIGITAL COLLECTION

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

View Selected Item Types

[View all Jewellery](#)

[View all Clocks](#)

[View all Paintings](#)

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

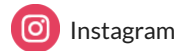
Contact us
Phone: +61 8 8267 3677
Email: info@rochefoundation.org.au

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.

Search the collection

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

On his first voyage to the Pacific, James Cook commanded the HM Bark Endeavour. However, that was not the ship's first voyage, or even its first name, rather it had had an interesting history before becoming Cook's ship, and would have an equally interesting history after it was superseded by the Resolution. Read more about it here:
<https://www.historyextra.com/period/georgian/hms-endeavour-captain-cook-where-sunk-australia-america-what-other-names/>

Currently on display at the Maritime Museum of South Australia is *First Voyages: Exploring the Southern Coast*, which looks at the various peoples that visited the shores of Australia in the 17th and 18th centuries, including the Macassans, Dutch and British (including Captain Cook). However, special focus is given to the voyages of Matthew Flinders and Nicolas Baudin, who both explored and mapped the southern coast of Australia between 1801-03:
<https://maritime.history.sa.gov.au/events/first-voyages-exploring-the-southern-coast/>



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

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



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