

The David Roche Foundation House Museum



Jean-Baptiste Santerre (France 1651-1717), *Adam and Eve (Duc D'Orleans and Madame De Parabere)*, c. 1716, France, oil on canvas, 228.0 x 170.0cm. TDRF 2426.

TDRF: Club Fermoy #17

Dear friends and supporters,

As the weather gets cooler the house museum and gallery is a perfect way to enjoy the indoors and revive the spirit through the generous design extravagance and abundance of treasures in Fermoy House. With some 3000 items on display you can't help but smile! Or join a guided tour Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 11.15am of *Captain Cook & the Art of Memorabilia* during May to learn more about the work that make up this significant exhibition. There also lectures and a new podcast available before the exhibition closes 29 May.

Another juggernaut of history, Napoléon Bonaparte, is featured in this edition of the newsletter to mark the 200th anniversary of his death on St. Helena, Wednesday 5 May 1821. David Roche, Francophile and Napoléonic enthusiast, visited locations and collected items associated with the man and the ill-fated Bourbon dynasty. Rarely seen, the impressive Jean-Baptiste Santerre *Adam and Eve* (as Philippe, Duc D'Orléans and Madame De Parabère), c.1716, painted when Philippe was the Regent for Louis XV, is currently displayed in Fermoy House. Only due to loans to the Art Gallery of South Australia's *A Vast Emporium* exhibition have we been able to find room for this magnificent 2.3 metre high painting!

Looking ahead to June 2021, I would like to draw your attention to two major events: TDRF will celebrate its 5th Anniversary (5 years already!) and on 17 June, we are opening our new exhibition *Embroidery: Oppression to Expression*. Curated by TDRF from loans across South Australia, *Embroidery* is a lavish exhibition of over 300 hundred years of this art-form from Europe and Australia. And make sure to keep your eyes on our website and social media channels, as we'll be letting you know about more special events, displays and opportunities over the next month.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason
Museum Director

EXHIBITION



FINISHING SOON!

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 a picturesque series of coloured aquatints by Francis Jukes entitled *Views of the South Seas*, after original watercolours by John Cleveley, each of which showing a Pacific island location visited by Cook on his third voyage. John Cleveley's pieces are in turn based on sketches by his brother, James, who had sailed with Captain Cook on his third voyage, and witnessed the navigator's death in Hawaii in 1779.

Image: after James Cleveley (Britain 1750–?), John Cleveley (Britain 1747–1786), Francis Jukes (Britain 1745–1812), engraver, View of Morea, or Eimo, one of the Society Islands, View of Owhyhee, one of the Sandwich Islands (or Death of Captain Cook), View of Huaheine, one of the Society Islands, showing the Resolution and Discovery at anchor in the magnificent harbour of O Wharre, View of Charlotte Sound, from the series *Views of the South Seas*, 1787–88, London, coloured aquatints, 44.0 x 60.0cm (each). On loan from Peter Walker

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

A circular, hemispherical map of the Americas, showing North and South America, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Caribbean Sea. The map is labeled with various geographical names and features, including 'AMERICA', 'NOVA ALBION', 'FLORIDA', 'MARE PACIFICUM', and 'STRAITS COGNITA'. It is a historical map, likely from the 17th century, showing the Americas and surrounding regions.

Captain Cook is just one chapter of Australia's long history, erroneously described as the discoverer and founder of Australia. In this talk, Peter will present a history of the exploration of Australia and Pacific through numismatics pre-Cook, contemporaneous to Cook and post-Cook, the latter including an examination of the ramifications of Cook's voyages.

Through items on display in the exhibition *Captain Cook & the Art of Memorabilia*, Peter will discuss numismatic aspects of pre-Cook mapping of the Pacific and Australia, Cook's charting of the Pacific on his three voyages, the response in England to Cook's death, post-Cook exploration of the Pacific (including French explorer, Baudin), and modern commemoratives. Peter will also discuss the significance of numismatics in Australia after Cook, with convict love tokens, medals of the British army in Australia and Governor Brisbane's pass.

About the speaker

Peter Lane has been a collector for over 40 years and specialises in numismatic aspects of cartography, exploration, fauna and convicts, relating to Australia pre-1868. He is the Honorary Numismatist at the Art Gallery of South Australia, past president of the Numismatic Association of Australia, a board member of the Australiana Society and a regular contributor to their *Australiana* publication, a regular contributor to the *Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia*, and was a contributing author of *Convict Love Tokens*.

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

Limited parking on-site

Ticket for event only

Image: attributed to Michael Mercator (The Netherlands c.1566/70–1600), *Drake medal* (copy), designed c.1580?, minted 1977, London, silver, 6.8cm diameter. On loan from a private collection

Book Now

TODAY'S TREASURE

Showcasing the favourite pieces of our fantastic guides and volunteers in The David Roche Collection. In this edition, Geoff S. discusses the George Bullock specimen table, an incredible piece with a top consisting of a pietra dura floral still life surrounded by numerous mineral examples from around the world.



Our Favourite Pieces

Specimen table by George Bullock (Britain 1777-1818), c. 1815

There are many beautiful objects in the David Roche collection, but one that stands out is the George Bullock *Specimen table*. The table is in two parts – the specimen top set in an ormolu stiff leaf perimeter above a reeded edge, and the base with its flared triangular column and a triform base supported by three gilded sphinxes, supine, in bronze.

Martin P Levy in his essay in *Empires & Splendour* wrote:

A considerable part of Bullock's documented oeuvre, while individual, reveals a clear debt to contemporaneous French design. The overall design of the table, for example, can be compared with the "Table, exécute à Petersbourg . . .", a triangular based and circular topped

table supported by winged sphinxes and illustrated in the 1812 publication, *Recueil de decorations intérieures* by C Percier and PFL Fontaine.

In the centre of the top is a rare inlay of Florentine *pietra dura* depicting a basket of flowers in malachite, lapis lazuli, chalcedony and milky quartz. The inner segmented section interspersed with obsidian divisions includes lapis, chert, fluorite, oolitic limestone, and more. The outer segments include malachite, manganese dendrites, travertine, limestone with dendrites, granite quartz and Corsican orbicular diorite. It was very likely that Bullock made bases for tops purchased on the Grand Tour. A similar table is in the V&A museum.

The base corresponds closely with *Tracings* by Thomas Wilkinson from the designs of George Bullock 1820 held in the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

This table represents two of David Roche's collecting foci – English Regency and French Empire. George Bullock had a connection with Napoléon for it was he who the British Government commissioned to design the furniture and other accoutrements for New Longwood House on St Helena where Napoléon had been exiled. Bullock's furnishings, designed to harmonise with the architecture "in the pure simplicity of the Grecian style" executed by William Atkinson, architect for the Ordnance Department, were intended to provide an appropriate residence for the ex-Emperor.

Geoff S. - May 2021



artist unknown, *The Empress Josephine's pug, Fortune*, c.1800. Public domain.

CANINE TIDBITS

Did you know...

Although Napoléon himself never owned a dog, his first wife, the Empress Josephine, brought a small pug named Fortune with her to the marriage. Unfortunately for Napoléon, Fortune was rather protective of his mistress, and did not take kindly to the new interloper.

Napoléon said of him, *"Do you see that gentleman: he is my rival. He was in possession of Madam's bed when I married her. I wished to remove him but it was quite useless to think of it. I was told that I must either sleep elsewhere or consent to share my bed. That annoyed me considerably, but I had to make up my mind. I gave way. The favourite was less accommodating..."*

Fortune died some years later after accompanying Josephine to Italy to be with Napoléon where he was leading the French army against any insurgency. However, that was not to be end of Napoléon's dog woes, for very soon after, Josephine was gifted yet another pug by one Lieutenant Hippolyte Charles, a member of the household guard. One can imagine Napoléon would have felt at the news!

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Photograph of the *Tomb of Napoléon*, Les Invalides, by David and Martyn, June 2008

David Roche was fascinated by Napoléon Bonaparte, and it became one of his passions to collect items related to the French Emperor. Spread amongst the rooms of Fermoy House are a veritable treasure trove of incredible Napoléonic pieces, with highlights including the stunning c.1811 *The Nurture of Jupiter/King of Rome* clock in lapis lazuli, ormolu and enamel showing the nymph Amalthea feeding the child Jupiter, the majestic c.1897 silvered bronze statue of *Napoléon entering Cairo*, the c.1810 *Imperial commode* with its Napoléonic bees, and the refined c.1810 *Napoléonic armchairs* with faux-bronze figural armrests and lions paw feet.

However, undoubtedly the apex of David's Napoléonic collection is the Durs Egg

(Switzerland/Britain 1748–1831) *Flintlock pistol*, one of a pair of duelling pistols that was presented by the British soldier, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Thornton, to Napoléon in 1802, while the latter was First Consul. The pistol bears the word 'Marengo' against a battle trophy (to celebrate Napoléon's great victory over the Austrians at Marengo in 1800), all in gold. It was said that "David loved the idea of owning something that had been handled by Napoléon ... [and] he was fascinated by the complex history of how it ended up in Napoléon's hands."

Such was David's interest that on every trip to Paris, he would be sure to visit Les Invalides and view the red quartzite tomb of Napoléon. In addition, he was greatly intrigued by Napoléon's death mask, to the point that he left instructions that upon his own demise, a death mask should be made. For those interested, there is a plaster copy of Napoléon's death mask currently on display in the *Wonders* exhibition at the South Australian Museum.

ACQUISITION



France, *Bust of Napoléon as Caesar*, c. 1900, France, patinated bronze.

The Martyn Cook (1958–2019) Bequest 2020

One of a number of Napoléonic items donated to The David Roche Collection as part of the Martyn Cook Bequest 2020 is this patinated bronze bust of Napoléon showing him in the guise of a Roman Emperor wearing the Bay Laurel wreath crown. Portraits of Napoléon I were not only popular and widely disseminated in France during his own reign, but also

during the reign of his nephew, Napoléon III, and demand continued steadily thereafter.

This particular portrait dates to around 1900, and appears to be based on the work of famed Italian neoclassical sculptor, Antonio Canova. Napoléon had brought Canova to Paris to create sculptures of him in 1802. This particular bust is based on one that Napoléon saw in Canova's workshop, of which he commissioned a larger version that was completed in 1804. The appearance closely derives from the portraits of the first Roman emperor, Augustus, with the carefully and deliberately ordered locks of hair in the fringe, and the youthful, idealised appearance of the subject.

Movie Prize Giveaway



EXHIBITION
ON SCREEN.

SUNFLOWERS

THE MYSTERY OF VAN GOGH'S GREATEST MASTERWORKS

From award-winning director David Bickerstaff

EXHIBITION ON SCREEN IN ASSOCIATION WITH SEVENTH ART PRODUCTIONS' 'SUNFLOWERS'
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS TIM DAWSON, PHIL GRABSKY, AMANDA WILKIE. DIRECTED BY DAVID BICKERSTAFF

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**ENTER TO
WIN 2
PASSES**
PALACE NOVA
EASTEND
MAY 22 & 23

The David Roche Foundation has partnered with Palace Nova Eastend to offer our loyal supporters the opportunity to win a double pass to see the new movie, Sunflowers, on 22 or 23 May at the Eastend Cinemas. All you have to do is let us know your favourite piece in The David Roche Collection, and you enter the draw to win these tickets! The competition is open until midnight on Sunday 9 May, and the winner will be drawn on Monday 10 May.

[Click here to enter the draw!](#)

SHOP FOR MOTHER'S DAY

With Mother's Day just around the corner on Sunday 9 May, make sure you take a look at some of the gorgeous items we have available in our shop.

We have a fantastic range including scarves, notebooks, bags, pens, umbrellas and vouchers, all of which your Mum would LOVE! All items are available from our online shop as well as in the museum shop so pick up a unique gift for your Mum today!





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About the collection

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

[View all Jewellery](#)

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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

211 Melbourne Street
North Adelaide SA 5006
Limited parking available onsite

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

Lots of items have been added to the online collection! You can now view a late 19th century Dutch 10 porcelain tile panel of the Grimm Brothers' fairytale, 'De Wolf en de Zeven Geitjes' (The Wolf and the Seven Young Goats), a collectable Wemyss pig, and a series of sweet Staffordshire children's plates.

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.

[View the new additions](#)

[Search the collection](#)

PODCAST



Just a few short months ago, Nat Williams, former Treasures Curator at the National Library of Australia, came to TDRF and sat down with our Assistant Curator, Nathan, to talk about tapa cloth, how and where it is made, how it was collected by European sailors, including James Cook, and the Cook-related collections of the National Library of Australia, most notably the Rex 'Nan' Kivell collection.

[Click the button below and find out all about it!](#)

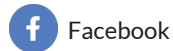
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LINKS WE LOVE

As we commemorate the 200th anniversary of Napoléon's death, this page on the Fondation Napoléon's website is highly relevant as it links to a variety of articles on Napoléon's death on St. Helena, and his death masks:

<https://www.napoleon.org/en/history-of-the-two-empires/close-up/napoleons-death-mask/>

The article on Napoléon's body at Les Invalides does not link, but can be found at:

<https://www.napoleon.org/en/history-of-the-two-empires/articles/napoleons-body-is-definitely-at-invalides/>

For our Victorian followers, of note is a small exhibition currently on display at the Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, entitled The French Connection, which has pieces from the (mostly Napoléonic) Briars collection at Mt. Martha on display:

<https://mprg.mornpen.vic.gov.au/EXHIBITIONS/Current-exhibitions/The-French-Connection>



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 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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